

## PPE AT A GLANCE

- [When to use PPE](#)
- [What PPE to use](#)
- [How to use PPE](#)
- [How much PPE should I order?](#)

### When to use PPE

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) advises to “only use PPE as a last resort” because you should first focus on safe systems and other controls (Source: [HSE, PPE](#)).

During the pandemic, in a typical community audiology practice setting, you should first focus on ensuring there are procedures in place to help people comply with:

- Social distancing guidance
- Best practice hand and respiratory/cough hygiene
- Cleaning and disinfection protocols
- Avoiding face touching
- Other safe systems – e.g. Perspex shields, breath shields, etc.

For example, if you can redesign a task so that it is performed at >2m away, then this is preferable to being within 2m and using PPE. Where you cannot do this, for example, when performing otoscopy, the appropriate PPE should be used and used correctly.

### What PPE to use

Pages 24 and 28 of the joint AIHHP, BAA, BSA and BSHAA audiology and otology guidance during Covid-19 includes a table about which PPE to use. [Access general the table here](#) and [PPE for specific vestibular assessments here](#).

In a typical community audiology setting, where you see no Covid-19 suspect or confirmed cases, then:

- Staff working at >2m do not need to use PPE<sup>1</sup>
- Patients do not need to use PPE<sup>2</sup>

Face coverings are not PPE for healthcare settings, service users should follow local guidance on the use face coverings in line with general advice from the government.

**If** you work in a different setting or perform aerosol-generating procedures refer to the full [Covid-19 PPE guidance](#) or contact us directly for additional support and advice by emailing [info@the-ncha.com](mailto:info@the-ncha.com).

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<sup>1</sup> For example, see Table 3, UK PPE guidance [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/879108/T3\\_poster\\_Recommended\\_PPE\\_for\\_ambulance\\_staff\\_paramedics\\_transport\\_pharmacy.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/879108/T3_poster_Recommended_PPE_for_ambulance_staff_paramedics_transport_pharmacy.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> See Section 9, of UK PPE guidance <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-infection-prevention-and-control/covid-19-personal-protective-equipment-ppe#patient-use-of-ppe>

## How to use PPE

PHE has produced posters which explain [how to use PPE](#). The most relevant to community audiology, for non-aerosol generating procedures, are:

- [Putting PPE on](#)
- [Taking PPE off](#)

HPS has created a short video which explains how to use PPE correctly:

- [Watch the video](#)

Alternatively, you can use the following PHE videos for health and social care settings and a guide for care homes.

- [Public Health England – video training for health and social care](#)
- [Public Health England – video training PPE for care homes](#)

## How much PPE should I order?

You will need to order Type IIR masks. These can be used for an entire session unless damaged or, for example, you touch it. A session might last four hours but could be less.

To help independent practice owner-members, we can help you estimate the amount of PPE you need to order. If you need any support, please email [info@the-ncha.com](mailto:info@the-ncha.com).