

# Use of PPE for Specific Programs, Classes

## Text in bronze is updated information

The purpose of this policy and procedures document is to provide NHTI faculty, staff and students who will be working in Allied Health and STEM programs and classes guidance on the use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) when conducting their labs.

Due to the high transmission rate of COVID-19 which is **becoming more transmissible with some emerging of multiple variants of concern** in conjunction with these programs specific requirements, the use of Personnel Protective Equipment (PPE) is required to mitigate (not eliminate) and provide enhanced protective measures for faculty, staff and students in these programs.

These areas are identified as Enhanced PPE areas and are identified through signage posted in each area that PPE is required. These areas are designated to reduce potential for transmission of COVID-19 due to frequent close contact (under six feet), being a confined space with poor air circulation, and through surface contact with equipment and objects that cannot be effectively disinfected. These spaces require proper donning (putting on) and doffing (taking off) of PPE.

These spaces are identified as:

- Dental Program/Clinic
- Nursing Program/Clinics
- Other Allied Health Programs/Clinics
- Machine Shops and Industrial Labs
- Other Science Courses with Lab-Based Components

The links below contain two YouTube videos from the CDC which demonstrate proper donning (putting on)/doffing (taking off) procedures for PPE. These videos show all components for full donning and doffing in a healthcare setting. Some steps may not be applicable to your program/class and may be skipped depending of the program/class and level of protection needed. (i.e. gown and N95 respirator needed for Healthcare fields only)

- [Donning Video](#)
- [Doffing Video](#)

Rooms that require PPE will have PPE available in the room and areas to dispose of PPE that will be discarded per specific guidance or protocol spaces. These areas will have signage and be marked identifying the area.

Areas that require PPE that are not healthcare settings (i.e. Dental Clinical and Nursing Clinical settings) may require the following:

- Surgical mask three layer
- Eye protection
- Gloves

## Cloth Facemasks

Cloth facemasks are not considered PPE and only offer a certain level of protection to slow or reduce the wearer from spreading COVID-19 to others. **Cloth facemasks are not a substitute for social distancing, unless absolutely necessary.**

Cloth facemasks are required to be worn in **all** of campus, such as hallways, stairwells, bathrooms and other situations as outlined in the [Social Distancing, Mask and Hand Hygiene Guidance](#) .

## Eye Protections and Face Shields

Acceptable eye protection is a full-face shield or goggles that cover the front and sides of the eyes without gaps. Safety glasses and eyeglasses do not constitute eye protection.

- Ensure that your eye protection is compatible with your respiratory protection and does not interfere with fit.
- Face shields and eye protection only provide protection from splash or protection of eyes when in close contact with others and are not safety glasses for potential impact injuries.
  - If an area requires safety glasses wear both if others will be in close contact (under six feet).
  - If the face shield fogs up and presents a greater safety concerns remove and use goggles rated for impact injuries
  - As a last resort safety glasses only. This will leave you open to greater exposure if a COVID-19 positive person is present.

Face shields and eye protection should be issued to individuals and are reusable.

- Do not share face shields.
- Reusable eye protection must be stored appropriately, cleaned, and disinfected prior to and after use.

## Gloves

If gloves cannot be used due to other safety hazards (i.e. injuries due to moving parts on machinery) switch to either:

- [Disinfecting](#) equipment before and after use or;
- By frequent [hand sanitizing](#) each time before and after handling equipment.

## Disposable/Reusable Items

These areas will have PPE disposal areas for surgical masks, gloves and gowns. Clinical sites, due to supply disruptions, may follow specific guidance for the cleaning and reuse of N95 respirators per CDC guidance. Face shields are reusable, **should be retained by the same individual** and should be disinfected before leaving the area.

## COVID-19 Vaccinations Impact on PPE Usage

If an individual has received the complete series of COVID-19 vaccines (**all doses: two doses for Moderna or Pfizer, or one dose for Johnson and Johnson**) and developed sufficient antibodies (**more**

than 14 days after last required dose) they are still required to social distance and wear facemask and other PPE as needed. There are several reasons for this:

- While the COVID-19 vaccines are effective at preventing COVID-19 disease, especially severe illness and death, they are not 100% effective
- It is still unknown how effective the vaccines are against variants of the virus that cause COVID-19, which are now circulating in the United States. Early data show the vaccines may work against some variants but could be less effective against others.
- It is unknown if COVID-19 vaccines keep people from spreading the disease; however, early data show that the vaccines may help keep people from spreading COVID-19.
- It is unknown how long COVID-19 vaccines can protect people.
- It is known that other prevention steps help stop the spread of COVID-19, and that these steps are still important, even as vaccines are being distributed.

## Entering and Exiting Enhanced PPE Area

Upon entrance to an identified Enhanced PPE area, faculty and students will sanitize their hands and remove cloth facemask, store **in their pocket, purse or backpack, etc.** and don PPE in accordance with the instructions in the video above.

Prior to exiting to an area, faculty and students will doff PPE and sanitize hands prior to putting on cloth facemask PPE in accordance with the instruction in the video above.

The Dental Program clinic and other Allied Health/Medical programs/clinical sites will have specific PPE requirements. Follow the guidance for those programs and/or clinics.

For more information please contact NHTI Campus Safety at (603) 230-4042, or at [nhticampussafety@ccsnh.edu](mailto:nhticampussafety@ccsnh.edu)

All information obtained from the CDC and NHDHHS

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