

This is Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) information for those people receiving a direct payment, where their Personal Assistant (PA) is not employed through an agency.

If you employ a PA through an agency then the agency is responsible for providing PPE. Your home care agency will be able to order PPE through the PPE portal.

PPE Guidance

Public Health England has recommended that PPE should be used for:

Situation	Disposable gloves	Disposable apron	Fluid-repellent surgical mask	Eye protection
When providing any close personal care in direct contact with the person(s) you are caring for (e.g. touching) OR within 2 metres of anyone in the household who is coughing	X	X	X	X – where there is risk of droplets or bodily fluid secretions
When within 2 metres of a person you are caring for or household members but not delivering personal care, or needing to touch them, and there is no one within 2 metres who has a cough	Not required	Not required	X	Not required
Any other work situation when in the home of the person you are caring for; in your work premises; or with other staff members	Not required	Not required	X	Not required

The [Government guidelines](#) will provide more detailed information about the different situations and the exact types of PPE you should be using.

How do you get PPE

You can contact Adult Social Care to request PPE at camdencareschoices@camden.gov.uk. Once the referral has been made you will be contacted to confirm your order and discuss requirements. PPE will need to be picked up from the Council Offices or, if that is not possible, delivery can be arranged.

What you need to know about using PPE

The PPE guidance sets out that masks and eye protection are now subject to 'sessional use' whereas gloves and aprons remain single use items. What this means in practice is set out below:

- **Masks:** PAs can wear the same face mask for the whole of a 'session of care' (i.e. when keeping the mask on without taking it off during a range of activities). The duration of a single session in a mask will vary. A single session refers to a period of time where a worker is undertaking duties in a specific care setting or environment. A session ends when the care worker leaves the care setting or environment. Once the mask has been removed it should be disposed of safely. PPE should not be subject to continued use if damaged, soiled, compromised or uncomfortable. PPE should not be re-used once it has been taken off.
- **Eye protection:** Eye protection is recommended for care of people where there is risk of droplets or secretions from the person's mouth, nose, lungs or from body fluids reaching the eyes (e.g. caring for someone who is repeatedly coughing). Eye protection can be used continuously while providing care, unless you need to remove the eye protection from your face (e.g. to take a break from duties). Some eye protection is reusable. In these circumstances the items should be cleaned

and disinfected following the manufacturer's instructions. If eye protection is labelled as for single use then it should be disposed of after removal.

- Aprons and gloves are subject to single use as per Standard Infection Control Precautions, with disposal and hand hygiene after each use.

How to use PPE safely

Safe working practices are needed when using PPE for people to protect themselves and limit the spread of infection.

- Everyone should follow good hygiene practices.
- If you are using PPE, it is vital that you are properly trained in putting on, wearing and taking off PPE. Incorrect use of PPE can increase the risk of infection.
- Where PPE is required, a risk assessment needs to be undertaken to assess whether eye protection is required. Eye protection is needed if there is a likely risk of contamination with splashes, droplets or blood or body fluids.
- It is essential that used personal protective equipment is stored securely within disposable rubbish bags.

Putting on PPE safely

You should wash your hands before putting PPE on, and put it on in the following order:

1. disposable apron
2. fluid resistant surgical mask
3. eye protection if risk of splashing to the face or eyes
4. disposable gloves

Removing PPE safely

It is important that the PPE is removed in an order that minimises the potential for cross-contamination. Hand decontamination helps to prevent the spread of infection - use alcohol hand rub between removing items of PPE as below:

1. disposable gloves
2. hand decontamination
3. disposable apron
4. eye protection (if worn)
5. hand decontamination
6. fluid resistant surgical mask
7. hand decontamination

Hands should be washed with soap and water for 20 seconds after all PPE has been removed. Hand hygiene should extend to include washing of exposed forearms.

Disposing of PPE

- It is essential that personal protective equipment is stored securely within disposable rubbish bags.
- These bags should be placed into another bag, tied securely and kept separate from other waste within the room. This should be put aside for at least 72 hours before being put in the usual household waste bin for disposal.

Useful resources for training

- Poster: Putting on and taking off PPE (also available [here](#))
- Video: [Putting on PPE](#)
- Poster: how to wash hands (also available [here](#))

PPE questions

If you have any questions about PPE, these can be directed to camdencareschoices@camden.gov.uk

The email address camdencareschoices@camden.gov.uk should only be used for PPE requests. All other Adult Social Care non-PPE related questions should be directed to adultsocialcare@camden.gov.uk