

## PPE Guidance for Iowa Correctional Staff

The following document will be used as a guide to determine when PPE is necessary for both nursing staff and security staff.

Mode of transmission: Early reports suggest person-to-person transmission most commonly happens during close exposure to a person infected with COVID-19, primarily via respiratory droplets produced when the infected person coughs or sneezes. Droplets can land in the mouths, noses, or eyes of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs of those within close proximity. The contribution of small respirable particles, sometimes called aerosols or droplet nuclei, to close proximity transmission is currently uncertain. However, airborne transmission from person-to-person over long distances is unlikely.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) includes;

- N95 respirator,
- Gloves,
- Gown/apron,
- Safety goggles/face shield.

What tasks require full PPE donning?

All required PPE shall be worn when;

- Entering an I/I cell with a confirmed case of COVID19.
- Transporting an I/I with a confirmed case of COVID19.
- Any face to face interaction within 6 feet, an I/I with a confirmed case of COVID19.

All face to face interactions shall be limited to medically necessary tasks. Correctional staff will not conduct strip searches, pat downs, or room searches on an individual with a confirmed case of COVID19 unless absolutely necessary.

Persons entering a cell with appropriate PPE may assist with disinfecting the cell with 3% diluted bleach solution. All PPE should be removed upon exiting the cell in an approved PPE disposal can with a lid. Appropriate handwashing will follow.

If an I/I presents both of the following symptoms;

- Cough
- Fever > 100

The I/I should immediately have a surgical mask placed on them. Staff should don full PPE during transporting to isolation.

The mission of the Iowa Department of Corrections is:  
**Creating Opportunities for Safer Communities**

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## Q&A

**Q: I am an officer in a housing unit with a confirmed case. Do I need to wear PPE while completing rounds?**

A: No, when an I/I is isolated in their closed front cell and there is no face to face interaction, correctional staff do not need to wear PPE. If supplies allow, correctional staff may wear a surgical mask for preventative measures.

**Q: Should the I/I with a confirmed case, or potential confirmed case, wear any PPE while there is face to face contact?**

A: Yes, all I/Is with a confirmed case or potential for a confirmed case (fever greater than 100 and cough) should wear a surgical mask during any interaction with staff.

**Q: If I am designated as a staff person that may have direct contact with a confirmed case, do I need to participate in a respirator program? What does that entail?**

A: Yes, you will need to complete a medical evaluation, online training, and FIT testing. Respirator programs also require the staff person to be clean shaven.

**Q: Do I need to put all of the PPE on to complete count on an individual with a confirmed or suspected case of COVID19?**

A: The I/I ID should be secure on the outside of the cell while the person is isolated to their cell. This will prevent face to face contact and limit the need for PPE to complete count.

**Q: What if we run out of N95 masks?**

A: The CDC and IDPH has permitted the use of surgical masks in the event there is a shortage of N95s. Our PPE stock statewide is limited and we ask staff to be mindful of this.