

ISSA Tip Sheet #1

January 30, 2020

Recommendations for Personal Protective Equipment for the Cleaning and Forensic Restoration Industry in Response to Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Personal protective equipment (PPE) should be selected based on the results of a situation/site risk assessment. This includes taking into consideration the likelihood of exposure and the activities or work practices being performed.

Workers must receive training on and demonstrate an understanding of:

- When to use PPE
- What PPE is necessary
- What are the limitation of their PPE
- **Extremely important**, how to properly don (put on) and doff (take off) PPE in a manner to prevent self and environmental contamination
- How to properly dispose of disposable PPE must be part of the plan and important for infection/contamination control
- How to properly clean, decontaminate, and maintain reusable PPE after and between uses.

Employers should have documented policies and procedures describing a recommended sequence for safely donning and doffing PPE.

Employers should follow their national requirements for Personal Protective Equipment programs. In the U.S. employers should select appropriate PPE and provide it in accordance with U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA) standard [1910 Subpart I - Personal Protective Equipment](#).

ISSA-GBAC General Guidance for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is intended for workers or individuals who enter into spaces to clean and disinfect, where an infected or potentially infected individual is or has been located with COVID-19.

Situations where there is a potentially infectious or confirmed infectious person present, **the minimum PPE guidance is:**

- A N-95 respirator or higher level of respiratory protection such as a powered air purifying respirator (PAPR)
- Eye protection or face shield
- A disposable gown or covering, if disposable gowns are not available, a protocol for laundry must be in place

- Gloves should be worn
- Shoe covers or dedicated shoes that can be decontaminated may be needed based on the site risk assessment.

In areas where an infectious individual has been, but is no longer present, **minimum PPE recommendations are:**

- A surgical mask or similar. The use of a surgical mask is to prevent accidental contact between the wearer's hands, nose, and mouth and should not be considered respiratory protection. ***If the risk assessment indicated a high likelihood of generating aerosols during the cleaning process, the surgical mask should be replaced with a minimum of a N-95 respirator or higher level of respiratory protection such as a PAPR.***
- Eye protection or face shield
- Disposable gown or covering. If disposable gowns are not available, a protocol for laundry must be in place
- Gloves should be worn
- Shoe covers or dedicated shoes that can be decontaminated may be needed based on the site risk assessment.

These PPE recommendations are those which are to protect the wearer from the Wuhan coronavirus.

Additional PPE, such as a chemical respirator, may be required for the use of the disinfecting chemicals, the most stringent combined set of PPE for the virus and chemical should then be worn.

Other links of interest:

- [Coronavirus: Prevention and Control for the Cleaning Industry](#)
- [Public Health Agency of Canada \(PHAC\)](#)
- [U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) 2019 Novel Coronavirus Situation Summary](#)
- [World Health Organization \(WHO\) Novel Coronavirus Coverage](#)

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