



Health & Safety

Personal Protective Equipment COVID-19 guidance

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) must be provided by the University for staff who may be exposed to a risk to their health and safety whilst at work where all other means of controlling the risk have failed, or are insufficient, or it is necessary for it to be available in the event of an emergency.

PPE is defined as all equipment, including clothing affording protection, which is intended to be worn or held by persons at work and which protects them against one or more risks to their health or safety.

The main legislation relating to the provision of PPE is the Personal Protective Equipment at Work Regulations.

Deans of School/Directors of Service are responsible for ensuring that suitable and appropriate risk assessments are made of the need for PPE by their staff and that any control measures recommended by the assessments are implemented and compliance maintained.

UNIVERSITY PROVISION OF PPE TO KEY/CRITICAL STAFF: COVID-19

University designated key/critical staff

Deans of School/Directors of Service are responsible for ensuring that their School/Service and staff risk assessments are reviewed and updated to take account of the coronavirus risk and that any requirement for additional control measures and PPE by their staff is provided, implemented and compliance maintained with current public health and government guidelines.

COVID-19 is a new and evolving risk and public health guidance is updated on a regular basis so it is important to regularly review and update COVID-19 risk assessments.

All advice and recommendations are strictly following the latest public health and government advice and will be reviewed and updated accordingly. All current versions of COVID-19 health and safety guidance will be available on the home page of the [Health & Safety website](#).

Follow [government advice](#) (going to work) **and where absolutely critical.**

In a general situation, *at present*, Public Health have advised no additional PPE to the required PPE deemed by the risk assessment for the task is required to be provided.

But it is very important to continue to risk assess the COVID-19 risk and update and implement the additional control measures below:

- Regular and frequent handwashing with soap and water for 20 seconds or, if not available, alcohol-based hand sanitiser
- Catch coughs and sneezes advice
- Strict social distancing of 2 metres is applied
- Do not touch mouth, nose or eyes
- Cover any open cuts or wounds

In line with [government advice](#) (going to work) where any designated key/critical staff may require to go into an area that a person is self-isolating (it must be **risk assessed and deemed as essential and only be to carry out safety critical and emergency work), it is very important to review and update the risk assessment and strictly implement the *current public health and government guidelines on PPE including the following additional control measures below:***

- Regular and frequent handwashing with soap and water for 20 seconds or, if not available, alcohol-based hand sanitiser
- Catch coughs and sneezes advice
- Strict social distancing of 2 metres is applied
- Do not touch mouth, nose or eyes
- Cover any open cuts or wounds
- Open windows and ventilate the area
- PPE as defined by risk assessment with reference to [COVID-19 personal protective equipment \(PPE\)](#)
- All PPE must be removed and disposed of safely in line with [current guidelines](#)

Where key/critical staff for cleaning or first-responders may be going into an area with symptomatic people with potential COVID-19, or may require additional PPE, guidance on precautions, cleaning etc. please see:

- **First responders guidance: COVID-19**
- **Cleaning /decontamination: COVID-19**

No work should be carried out by staff who have coronavirus symptoms, however mild.

References COVID-19 updates

Gov.uk

[Guidance for first responders and others in close contact with symptomatic people with potential COVID-19](#)

[COVID-19: cleaning of non-healthcare settings](#)

[Staying at home and away from others \(social distancing\) – going to work](#)

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): business and social distancing guidance](#)

[COVID-19 personal protective equipment \(PPE\)](#)

[COVID-19 : personal protective equipment use for non-aerosol generating procedures](#)

Health & Safety Executive

[COVID-19 : latest information and advice](#)

World Health Organisation

[Advice for the public: when and how to use masks](#)

[Advice on use of masks in communities, during home care, and in health care settings in areas that have reported cases of COVID-19](#)

Safety & Health Practitioner

[Complete guide to PPE](#)

**** This guidance will be reviewed regularly and updated in line with Public Health and government advice****



Further information and related links

Edinburgh Napier University – [Personal Protective Equipment Policy](#)

Health & Safety Executive – <http://www.hse.gov.uk/toolbox/ppe.htm>

HSE PPE A Brief Guide - <http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg174.pdf>

HSE Guidance on the Regulations - <http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/priced/l25.pdf>

Health & Safety website –

<https://staff.napier.ac.uk/services/governance-compliance/healthandsafety/guidance/Pages/PPE.aspx>

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