

# Escalation of personal protective equipment usage in COVID-19 vaccine clinics

## Queensland Health Guideline

### Purpose

This guideline provides recommendations regarding escalation of PPE usage for COVID-19 vaccination clinics.

### Scope

This guideline provides information for all Queensland Health Hospital and Health Service (HHS) employees (permanent, temporary, and casual) and all organisations and individuals acting as its agents (including visiting Medical Officers and other partners, contractors, consultants and volunteers). Compliance with this guideline is not mandatory, but sound reasoning must exist for departing from the recommended principles within a guideline.

### Related documents

#### Standards, procedures and guidelines

- Chief Health Officer [Public Health Directions](#)
  - To avoid doubt, a current public health directive/s prevails should there be any conflict between these guidelines and that directive.
- [Queensland Health infection prevention and control guidelines for the management of COVID-19 in healthcare settings](#)
- [Escalation of personal protective equipment usage in healthcare delivery, community health and in-home care settings, and for healthcare delivery in correctional services](#)
- [Escalation of personal protective equipment usage in residential aged care and disability accommodation services](#)
- [Fit testing of particulate filter respirators in respiratory protection programs](#)

### Guideline for PPE escalation and use in COVID-19 vaccination clinics

The Queensland Health [Escalation of personal protective equipment usage in healthcare delivery, community health and in-home care settings, and for healthcare delivery in correctional services](#) details PPE escalation according to the risk of unexpected COVID-19 infections in clients or workers because of community transmission.

Change of escalation level is informed by the Chief Health Officer and the State Health Emergency Coordination Centre, considering the risk of community and setting-specific transmission. These risk determinations can be localised (for example in the event of a local outbreak or cluster of COVID-19), regional or state-wide. Advice on the current PPE escalation levels can be found at <https://www.health.qld.gov.au/clinical-practice/guidelines-procedures/novel-coronavirus-qld-clinicians/personal-protective-equipment-ppe>

For each of these three levels of risk, Queensland Health has indicated the PPE requirements for healthcare delivery in HHS facilities.

This guidance applies the PPE escalation recommendations to COVID-19 vaccine clinic setting in [Table 1](#).

Assumptions:

- vaccine will be reconstituted with diluent and drawn up by a different person to the person administering the vaccine (where applicable); and
- the vaccine will be administered to non-COVID-19 recipients (clients who have clinical evidence of COVID-19, are in quarantine, or are suspected or confirmed cases will not be seen in COVID-19 vaccine clinics).

**Table 1. Recommended PPE escalation for COVID-19 vaccination clinics according to risk of unexpected COVID-19 infection in clients or workers**

Groups	Risk level		
	Low risk	Moderate risk As advised by Queensland Health	High risk As advised by Queensland Health
<b>Vaccine recipients</b> (clients)	No PPE	Surgical mask	Surgical mask
<b>Vaccine preparers</b> (e.g. staff preparing doses who <u>will not</u> have direct contact with vaccine recipients)	Standard precautions	Surgical mask <sup>1</sup>	Surgical mask <sup>1</sup>
<b>Vaccine administrators</b> (e.g. doctors or nurses who <u>will</u> have direct contact with vaccine recipients)	Standard precautions	Surgical mask Protective eyewear Optional: Exam gloves as required by standard precautions	<b>P2/N95 respirator</b> Protective eyewear Optional: Exam gloves as required by standard precautions
<b>Other staff specific to vaccination process</b> (e.g. admin staff and operational staff who <u>will not</u> have direct contact with vaccine recipients)	No PPE	Surgical mask <sup>1</sup>	Surgical mask <sup>1</sup>

1. In these situations, if within 1.5 metres of clients, protective eyewear should also be worn.

## Definitions

Term	Definition / Explanation / Details
Clinical evidence of COVID-19	In the last 14 days: fever ( $\geq 37.5$ °C) or history of fever (e.g. night sweats, chills), acute respiratory infection (e.g. cough, shortness of breath, sore throat), loss of smell or loss of taste. Other symptoms may include headache, myalgia, fatigue, runny nose, acute blocked nose (congestion), muscle pain, joint pain, diarrhoea, nausea/vomiting, loss of appetite.
Escalation level (Low risk, medium risk, high risk)	Low risk, medium risk or high risk of unexpected COVID-19 infection in workers or clients, related to risk of community and setting-specific transmission. Risk level and escalation level is determined by the Chief Health Officer. Current escalation level can be found at: <a href="https://www.health.qld.gov.au/clinical-practice/guidelines-procedures/novel-coronavirus-qld-clinicians/personal-protective-equipment-ppe">https://www.health.qld.gov.au/clinical-practice/guidelines-procedures/novel-coronavirus-qld-clinicians/personal-protective-equipment-ppe</a>

## Document approval details

### Endorsement

PPE Working Group 14 December 2021

COVID-19 Health System Response Clinical Advisory Group 21 December 2021

COVID-19 System Response Group 22 December 2021

### Document custodian

PPE Working Group, Working Group of the COVID-19 Health System Response Advisory Group (CRG).

### Approval officer

Jane Hancock

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Chair, COVID System Response Group

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## Version Control

Version	Date	Comments
1.0	15 March 2021	Developed in consultation with the PPE Working Group. Approving officer: Dr Jillann Farmer.
1.1-2.0	18 November 2021 - 14 December 2021	Document revised by Rebecca Adams, CNC Infection Prevention and control, Healthcare Improvement Unit and PPE Working Group. Converted to guideline format. Changed recommendation for respiratory protection for vaccine administrators in high risk. Removed recommendation as to fluid resistance level of surgical masks (any level of fluid resistance is suitable for use in a vaccine clinic). Inserted additional information about escalation/risk levels and where to find current risk level information. Consulted: Statewide Infection Clinical Network, COVID-19 IMT, COVID-19 Vaccination Command Centre Significant change highlighted in yellow.

## Contact area

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