The Statewide Infection Clinical Network (SICN) **endorses the recommendations regarding PPE** for the management of COVID-19 in the following Queensland Health Guidelines:

Interim infection control guidelines for the management of COVID-19 in healthcare settings

Appendix 3 PPE Quick Reference Guide

These are based on the Australian Government Department of Health Communicable Disease Network of Australia advice to public health units, and are consistent with recommendations from the Australian Government Department of Health and the World Health Organization.

These guidelines will inform the recommendations of your Infection Control team, however may be adapted locally depending on the circumstances of your Hospital or HHS.

PPE supply chains have been disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic, therefore we endorse the rational use of PPE and support measures to **conserve PPE** where it is possible to safely do so.

The threshold for a ‘suspected case’ and **recommendations regarding PPE use may change over time** depending on the phase of the pandemic in your locality. During sustained community transmission of COVID-19, PPE may be used in broader contexts. Your Infection Control and Infectious Diseases Team and local Public Health Unit will help determine if and when this is appropriate.

In Queensland we are well-placed to understand when sustained community transmission is occurring because:

- We have a high per-capita test rate
- We have a low test positivity rate (suggesting widespread testing)
- We have a low case-fatality rate, indicating a relatively high proportion of mild cases detected
- Sullivan Nicolaides Pathology have added coronavirus testing to their routine respiratory panel, their **weekly numbers are reported publicly**

SICN also acknowledges with gratitude the benefit afforded to our hospital and healthcare system by the hard work and successful implementation of effective public health measures by our colleagues.

Please contact: Statewide_Infection_Clinical_Network@health.qld.gov.au if you would like further information or have questions.
Follow local guidelines and **Safe fitting and removal of PPE** to avoid self-contamination during removal of PPE

1. Patient to wear a surgical mask when being transported
2. Aerosol generating procedures include: intubation/extubation; disconnection of a closed ventilator circuit; HFOV; open oropharyngeal or tracheal suctioning; upper respiratory instrumentation or surgery e.g. bronchoscopy, tracheotomy, ENT surgery, faciomaxillary or transphenoidal surgery; surgical, dental or post mortem procedures on respiratory tract involving high-speed devices; intercostal catheter insertion for relief of pneumothorax; thoracic surgery that involves entering the lung; manual ventilation, NIV, BiPAP, CPAP; collection of induced sputum; HFNO; TOE; CPR (excluding chest compressions and/or defibrillation in isolation) - CDNA, DOH
3. Prescription eyewear is not considered eye protection.