

Emergency Protocol - Personal Protective Equipment Version 1

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic and the issuance of Emergency Protocols for the care of those patients confirmed or suspected of the virus, a baseline level of personnel protective equipment (PPE) has been recommended. Based on the known threat of community spread and the manner in which the virus is transmitted the following PPE is *required* at a minimum level for all patient encounters, regardless of the patient presentation and complaint. This action is taken out of an abundance of caution and with the best interest of protecting both EMS providers and patients.

The following is the minimum level of personal protective equipment to be worn on all emergency medical responses and transports:

- Simple facemask
- Eye protection (e.g., goggles, safety glasses or face shield that fully covers the front and sides of the face). Personal eyeglasses and contact lenses are NOT considered adequate eye protection.
- A single pair of disposable patient examination gloves

In addition all patients shall wear a simple facemask and other parties involved during transport shall wear a simple facemask or face covering, condition permitting.

In instances where the patient is confirmed or suspected for COVID-19 and care involves high-risk and/or aerosol-generating procedures, the highest level of PPE should be utilized in accordance with Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines and the most current version of State of New Hampshire Emergency Protocol – COVID-19.