

## Appendix 16 – Best Practice - Aide memoire for Levels of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for Healthcare Workers when providing patient care

This table outlines the recommended Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to minimise risk of cross-transmission of infection to self and others when providing patient care. Clinical judgement and decisions should be based on the suspected/known infectious agent, severity of the illness caused, transmission route of the infectious agent, and the care setting and procedures undertaken.

Level	Recommended PPE	Example infectious agent/clinical scenario
<b>Level 1</b>  <a href="#"><u>SICPs</u></a>	<b>Standard Infection Control Precautions (SICPs)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disposable apron</li> <li>• Disposable gloves</li> </ul> <b>Consider (if risk of spraying or splashing):</b>  Eye & face protection (fluid-resistant Type IIR surgical face mask and goggles or full face visor)	No suspected or known infectious agent  Anticipated exposure to blood and/or other body fluids
<b>Level 2</b>  <a href="#"><u>CONTACT</u></a>	<b>DIRECT/INDIRECT CONTACT PRECAUTIONS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disposable apron; consider fluid-resistant disposable gown if apron provides inadequate cover for the procedure/task being performed</li> <li>• Disposable gloves</li> </ul> <b>Consider (if risk of spraying or splashing):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eye &amp; face protection (fluid-resistant Type IIR surgical face mask and goggles or full face visor)</li> </ul>	Suspected or confirmed infectious agent spread by <b>DIRECT/INDIRECT CONTACT</b>  Examples: <i>C. difficile</i> , Hepatitis C, MRSA, Norovirus, <i>Salmonella</i>  Anticipated exposure to blood and/or other body fluids

Level	Recommended PPE	Example infectious agent/clinical scenario
<b>Level 2</b> <u><b>DROPLET</b></u>	<b>DROPLET (RESPIRATORY) PRECAUTIONS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disposable apron; consider fluid-resistant disposable gown if apron provides inadequate cover for the procedure/task being performed</li> <li>• Disposable gloves</li> </ul> Fluid-resistant Type IIR surgical face mask and goggles or fluid-resistant Type IIR surgical face mask and full face visor	Suspected or confirmed infectious agent spread by the <b>DROPLET</b> route  Examples: Whooping cough, Influenza
<b>Level 2</b> <u><b>AIRBORNE</b></u>	<b>AIRBORNE (RESPIRATORY) PRECAUTIONS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disposable apron; consider fluid-resistant disposable gown if apron provides inadequate cover for the procedure/task being performed</li> <li>• Disposable gloves</li> </ul> Filtering face piece 3 (FFP3) respirator and eye protection or a powered hood respirator	Suspected or confirmed infectious agent spread by the <b>AIRBORNE</b> route  Examples: Chickenpox, Pulmonary TB, Measles
<b>FOR ALL <u>AEROSOL-GENERATING PROCEDURES</u> on patients with a known/suspected infection spread wholly or partly by the airborne or droplet route: FFP3 respirator (and eye protection) or a powered hood respirator</b>		
<b>Level 3</b> <b>ENHANCED</b>	<b>ENHANCED PRECAUTIONS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reinforced fluid-resistant long-sleeved surgical gown</li> <li>• Disposable fluid-resistant hood (if wearing a gown without an attached hood)</li> <li>• Full length disposable plastic apron</li> <li>• FFP3 respirator or powered hood respirator</li> <li>• Disposable full face visor</li> <li>• 2 sets of long or extended cuff non-sterile, non-latex disposable gloves</li> <li>• Surgical wellington boots or closed shoes</li> <li>• Disposable boot covers</li> </ul>	<b>For suspected or confirmed Infectious Diseases of High Consequence (IDHC)</b>  <b>Spread by DIRECT/INDIRECT CONTACT</b> Examples: Ebola virus, Lassa virus  <b>Spread by the AIRBORNE route</b> Examples: SARS, MERS-CoV, Avian Influenza  See the HPS PPE for Infectious Diseases of High Consequence <a href="#">literature review</a> for further details including donning and doffing instructions

Note: HPS are aware of the [High Consequence Infectious Diseases \(HCID\) consensus PPE model](#) drafted by Public Health England's HCID Programme (article in press) and will review this aide memoire following an evidence appraisal.

Adapted from original work produced by Public Health England and NHS Sheffield.