



## Assessment and management of patients presenting to General Practitioner with possible 2019 novel Coronavirus (2019 nCoV), Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (MERS CoV) or Avian Influenza using Personal protective equipment (PPE)

### Before the Assessment

For up to date information on the risk assessment and initial management of patients presenting to primary care refer to relevant algorithms available on [www.hpsc.ie](http://www.hpsc.ie)

This pack contains the following equipment for use by healthcare workers

- Surgical Mask
- Non Sterile Examination Gloves
- Clinical Waste Bag
- Long sleeved disposable gown
- Alcohol Hand Rub
- Eye Protection
- Cleaning/Disinfectant wipes

An instructional video for donning and doffing PPE is available on [www.hpsc.ie](http://www.hpsc.ie).

### Putting on PPE

- Decontaminate hands with alcohol hand rub or hand wash with soap and water
- Put on disposable gown
- Put on mask: Secure mask ties/straps at middle of head and neck. Fit flexible band to bridge of nose. Fit snug to face and below chin.
- Put on eye protection and adjust to fit. ( prescription glasses/spectacles are not suitable protection on their own- if you require glasses/spectacles place goggles over them)
- Put on gloves – extend to cover wrist of long sleeved gown

### Assessing the patient

- Take the clinical waste bag and alcohol hand rub with you when you enter the space where you will assess the patient.
- The assessment should be performed in a room away from other patients. The door should remain closed with restricted entry for staff members. Provide the patient with a mask and tissues and ask them to decontaminate their hands.
- In the space where you will assess the patient, position the clinical waste bag and the hand hygiene gel as far away from the patient as possible – more than 1 metre from the patient if possible
- Check that the mouth of the clinical waste bag is open so that you can avoid/minimise contact with the outside of the bag when disposing of PPE
- Remain 1 metre from the patient during the assessment. Unless clinically indicated a physical examination should **not** be performed.

### Removing PPE in the examination room

- Avoid contact between gloved hands and external surface of the clinical waste bag.
- Remove gloves (avoid touching outside of gloves dispose in clinical waste)
- Decontaminate hands with alcohol hand rub
- Remove eye protection from behind and dispose in clinical waste bag
- Remove apron/gown (avoid touching the front of the apron/gown) and dispose in clinical waste bag.
- Take the clinical waste bag with you as you leave the room where you have assessed the patient.

### Step outside the examination room

- Remove mask – grasp and lift mask straps/ties from behind your head and pull off mask away from your face. Avoid touching the front of the mask and hold the mask by the ties/straps to discard into a clinical waste bag.
- Close the clinical waste bag and place into a second clinical waste bag for disposal.
- Decontaminate hands with alcohol hand rub or hand wash with soap and water

*If you have contaminated your hands at any stage of this process immediately decontaminate your hands with alcohol hand rub before the next step.*

### After the patient leaves the room (Leave the room closed for one hour)

- Disinfectant wipes are provided in this kit which are suitable for cleaning and disinfection of most hard surfaces and reusable equipment (refer to manufacturer's instructions)
- Put on plastic gloves and an apron (a mask is not required)
- Bring sufficient disinfectant wipes into the room to ensure adequate cleaning/disinfection
- On entering room open the window to optimise room ventilation
- Remove any fabric curtains and place in a sealed bag for laundering in line with local arrangements
- Use disinfectant wipes to clean and disinfect all vertical hard surfaces including, chairs, examination couch, door handles and sanitary fittings in the room. .
- Clean all reusable equipment systematically from the top or furthest away points.
- If additional cleaning products are required e.g. for floor prepare either a combined detergent disinfectant solution at a dilution of 1000 parts per million (ppm) available chlorine (av.cl.) or use a neutral purpose detergent followed by disinfection (1000 ppm av.cl. e.g.1 tablespoon of bleach in 1 litre of warm water). Use disposable cloths and mop head to clean and disinfect. Clean and disinfect reusable mop handles before storage.

Further information on environmental cleaning including communal areas and disposal of waste is available on [www.hpsc.ie](http://www.hpsc.ie) – “Infection Prevention and Control Precautions for Possible or Confirmed 2019 novel Coronavirus (2019 nCoV), Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (MERS- CoV) and Avian Influenza A in Healthcare Settings”

### Follow up of contacts as per Public Health Guidance – for up to date information refer to [www.hpsc.ie](http://www.hpsc.ie)

- Record details of any accompanying carer/family member
- Record names and contact details of all persons in the waiting room who may have had potential exposure – see definitions of close contacts as per risk assessment algorithm
- Make a list of practice team members who may have had potential exposure.
- **No action is required until the suspect case is confirmed**
- If the suspected case is confirmed, the local Department of Public Health will contact the GP/Practice regarding follow-up of contacts.