

## **COVID-19: PPE Advice for Care Home Staff in Northern Ireland**

### **1. If the individual being cared for has no respiratory symptoms of COVID-19**

- No additional measures should be taken other than **standard IPC precautions**.
- Standard IPC precautions are the **minimum** infection prevention practices that apply to all patient care; they include Hand hygiene, the use of personal protective equipment (PPE), the handling and disposal of patients and sharps, the handling and management of clean and used linen, environmental cleaning and decontamination of equipment.
- No additional PPE is required above and beyond normal good hygiene practices. For most patient activities, this will include the use of only **disposable gloves and aprons**.

### **2. Where an individual receiving care is suspected or a confirmed case of COVID-19**

- Care workers should use personal protective equipment (PPE) for activities that bring them into close personal contact, such as washing and bathing, personal hygiene and contact with bodily fluids.
- Aprons, gloves and fluid repellent surgical masks should be used in these situations. You do **not need to be fit checked** for a fluid repellent surgical mask.
- Only if there is a risk of splashing, then eye protection will minimise risk.

### **3. When you need to carry out an aerosol generating procedure on an individual with symptoms of COVID-19.**

- Aerosol-generating procedures include (e.g. open suction, intubation/ extubation, non-invasive ventilation, tracheostomy procedures, cardiopulmonary resuscitation). **This does not include administration of medication via nebulisation.**
- Care workers should use an FFP3 respirator mask, eye protection (visor), disposable gloves and fluid resistant gown; aprons should be used if gowns are not fluid resistant.
- All care workers should be **fit checked** before using an FFP3 respirator mask
- A FFP3 respirator, although 'single use', can be worn for as long as comfortable.