Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Requirements in Student Residences and Family Housing Units

With heightened concerns around communicable diseases brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, new personal protective equipment (PPE) requirements have been established for University of Guelph employees working in Student Residences and Family Housing Units. The new PPE requirements have been established in Appendix A, according to the following criteria to reduce worker exposure to potential sources of infectious agents and are based on Public Health Ontario's Infection Prevention and Control for Clinical Office Practice [1], Risk Algorithm to Guide PPE Use:

- Disposable gloves are to be worn when there may be hand contact with a student's skin or personal belongings such as clothing, bedding, or towels or when there is a risk of hand contact with surfaces or wastewater likely contaminated with human body fluids (e.g., blood, vomit, urine, feces, and saliva).
- A medical mask and eye protection are to be worn to protect mucous membranes of the eyes, nose and mouth during activities in an occupied unit involving prolonged close contact with a student who may generate splashes or sprays of body fluids; and during cleaning or maintenance activities involving wastewater likely contaminated with human body fluids.
- Gowns are to be worn when protection is required against skin-to-skin contact with a student or skin exposure (other than hands) to splash or spray of wastewater likely contaminated with human body fluids.
- Additional PPE, including N95 respirators, eye protection and/or gowns, may be required by Environmental Health and Safety (EHS), Student Wellness or Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health (WDGPH) for certain situations based on various factors such as the presence of known or suspected cases of infectious diseases, mode of transmission of the infectious agent, severity of the disease, and community rate of transmission.

In addition to the PPE, practicing good hand hygiene is considered an important and effective measure to prevent the spread of communicable diseases. Hand washing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer must continue to be practiced immediately before entering a unit, after leaving the unit, and during donning and doffing of PPE.

Appendix A: New PPE Requirements in Student Residences and Family Housing Units for Routine Tasks **[2]**

Department: Job Classifications	Tasks	Required and Recommended PPE for Infection Prevention and Control
Student Housing: Porter	Attending students who have cuts, injury or vomits	Required PPE: Disposable gloves, medical mask and eye protection. Recommended PPE: Gowns if skin-to-skin contact (other than hand contact) with a student is anticipated.
	After-hours maintenance / minor repair (e.g., replacing batteries in a smoke alarm)	Recommended PPE: Disposable gloves when hand contact with a student's skin or personal belongings such as clothing, bedding, or towels is anticipated. Medical mask if entering an occupied room.
Student Housing: Trades and Maintenance	Repairs in residence rooms or family housing units, where there is risk of contact with wastewater (e.g., unclogging drains and fixing toilets, sinks, or sewer line)	Required PPE: Disposable gloves, medical mask and eye protection. Recommended PPE: Gowns if splashes, sprays or splatter of wastewater is anticipated.
	Other repairs in residence rooms or family housing units, where there is no risk of contact with wastewater (e.g., fixing walls, doors, windows or HVAC)	Recommended PPE: Disposable gloves when hand contact with a student's skin or personal belongings such as clothing, bedding, or towels is anticipated. Medical mask if entering an occupied room.
Physical Resources (PR): Custodial Services Staff	Cleaning body fluid spills* (e.g., blood, feces, urine, and vomit)	Required PPE: Disposable gloves, medical mask and splash-proof goggles Recommended PPE: Gowns if splashes, sprays or splatter of body fluids is anticipated. For additional PPE requirements, refer to PR Safe Work Procedure for "Cleanup of Bodily Fluids".
	Washroom cleaning* (e.g., cleaning sinks, toilets, showers, and floors)	Required PPE: Disposable gloves, medical mask and eye protection. Recommended PPE: Gowns if splashes, sprays or splatter of wastewater is anticipated.
PR: Trades and Maintenance	Washroom repairs where there is risk of contact with wastewater (e.g., unclogging drains and fixing toilets, sinks, or sewer line)	Required PPE: Disposable gloves, medical mask and eye protection. Recommended PPE: Gowns if splashes, sprays or splatter of wastewater containing body fluids is anticipated.
	Washroom repairs where there is no risk of contact with wastewater (e.g., replacing light fixtures, fixing walls, floor tiles, or clean water system)	Required PPE: Disposable gloves.
	Other repairs in residence rooms or family housing units, where there is no risk of contact with wastewater (e.g., fixing walls, doors, windows, HVAC, or breaker/power outages)	Recommended PPE: Disposable gloves when hand contact with a student's skin or personal belongings such as clothing, bedding, or towels is anticipated. Medical mask if entering an occupied room.
Hospitality: Cashiers and Servers	Processing transactions and general cleaning	Recommended PPE: Medical mask if not separated by a physical barrier (e.g., plexiglass).
Other Departments (e.g., CCS)	Repairs in residence rooms or family housing units, where there is no risk of contact with wastewater (e.g., IT/Wi-Fi support)	Recommended PPE: Disposable gloves when hand contact with a student's skin or personal belongings such as clothing, bedding, or towels is anticipated. Medical mask if entering an occupied room.

Notes: * Additional PPE may be required for protection against chemical exposures

Wastewater = Water that has been used for washing from baths, showers and sinks and for flushing from toilets and urinals.

Eye Protection = Goggles, face shields or safety glasses, unless it is specified otherwise.

Additional PPE, including N95 respirators, eye protection and/or gowns, may be required by Environmental Health and Safety (EHS), Student Wellness or Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health (WDGPH) for certain situations based on various factors such as the presence of known or suspected cases of infectious diseases, mode of transmission of the infectious agent, severity of the disease, and community rate of transmission.

File attachments: New PPE Requirements in Student Residences and Family Housing Units Appendix A.pdf

[3]

Source URL:https://www.uoguelph.ca/hr/about-hr/environmental-health-safety-ehs/ehs-programs-policies-guidelines-and-forms/ehs-guidelines-9

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