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Safety measures during COVID-19 pandemic as of May 13/20

The health and safety of our clients and our Associates is of utmost importance. With this in mind, we have implemented these safety measures.

1. Contact your client prior to each visit to ask them screening questions.
2. If the client reports symptoms, call the client's emergency contact as necessary and advise that the client needs to seek medical care.
3. All Associates must self screen at home everyday.
<https://covid-19.ontario.ca/self-assessment/> If you feel symptomatic, do not visit your client and call telehealth for instructions 1-866-797-0000.

Screening questions to be asked prior to entering a client's home:

1. Do you, or anyone in your household, have a fever?
2. Do you, or anyone in your household, have a cough?
3. Do you, or anyone in your household, have any cold/flu like symptoms?
4. Have you travelled outside of the country in the last 14 days?

When at the client's home:

1. Wash your hands using proper hand washing techniques.
2. Clean all touch points.
3. Whenever possible, maintain a 6 foot/ 2 meter distance from clients or others.

Masks:

Masks should be worn in all situations to avoid spreading bacteria and viruses, practice safe physical distancing of at least 2 meters, whenever possible.

- Clean masks are safe to continue to wear to the next clients. If visibly soiled, wet or damaged, the mask should be discarded.
- Clean masks should be stored in a paper bag or cleanable container with a lid.
- Cloth masks should be washed in hot water and hung to dry each day or if the mask becomes wet or soiled.
- Take extra care when removing your mask as this is when self-contamination is most likely to occur. Wash your hands with soap and water or use hand sanitizer.
- If visiting a client with known or suspected COVID-19, the client should be asked to wear a mask while the Associate is providing care.

Gowns/Change of Clothing:

Assess whether your clothes will come in contact with blood/ bodily fluids during the provision of services for your client. If yes, a reusable gown/ tshirt/ scrub shirt should be worn, so you can change clothing between clients. This helps in protecting you and your other clients.

Gloves:

Gloves should be used if Associate’s hands will come in contact with chemicals, cleaning solutions, blood or bodily fluids.

- Standard dishwashing gloves (reusable) are appropriate for cleaning.
- Vinyl or non latex gloves are appropriate for assisting with personal care.

Important Note: Vinyl or non latex gloves are single use gloves.

Scenario	When PPE is Req’d	When to change PPE?	When is it safe to Reuse Mask?
Provide any services including direct care for client with no symptoms or precautions; regardless of distance from client; also known as Phase 4 - lowest risk	Mask- to be worn for controlling the spread of bacteria & viruses by Associate to others Gloves- if hands will come into contact with blood/body fluids, chemicals, cleaning solutions.	Yes If the mask is visibly soiled, wet or damaged, it must be changed. Perform hand hygiene before & after touching the mask.	Yes , if the mask is clean and dry, it can be worn to the next client or removed for storage in a clean paper bag or cleanable container.
Direct care (personal care) for clients, who are suspected or positive COVID-19. Associate is within 2 metres of the client.	Mask- to be worn Gown- if clothes will come into contact with blood/body fluid (or change clothes) Gloves if hands come into contact with blood/body fluids, chemicals, cleaning solutions.	Yes	No
Provide services (e.g. laundry, groceries, meals) for suspected or positive COVID-19 clients. DO NOT get within 2 metres/6 feet of the client.	Mask- to be worn Gloves if hands come into contact with blood/body fluids, chemicals, cleaning solutions. Gown- if clothes will come into contact with blood/body fluid (or change clothes)	Yes If the mask visibly soiled or wet. Perform hand hygiene before & after touching the mask.	Yes , if the mask is clean and dry, it can be worn to the next client or removed for storage in a clean paper bag or cleanable container.
If there is expectation of splash/spray of bodily fluids (eg surgery or medical procedure eg intubation or childbirth) for a suspected or positive COVID-19 client; also known as Phase 1 - highest risk	Surgical mask with full face shield to keep mask dry & intact eye protection gown -if high pressure spray & large amt of fluids, wear fit tested N95 respirator & face shield	Yes	No

Resources:

The Government of Canada:

www.canada.ca/coronavirus

Province of Ontario:

www.covid-19.ontario.ca

<https://covid-19.ontario.ca/self-assessment/>

The Ministry of Health - Ontario:

http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/coronavirus/docs/2019_home_community_care_guidance.pdf

The World Health Organization www.who.int