

PPE usage in Education and Childcare settings across Leicestershire and Rutland

Dear colleague,

Most staff in education settings will not require PPE beyond what they would normally need for their work, even if they are not always able to maintain a distance of 2 metres from others. PPE is only needed in a very small number of cases including:

- children, young people and students whose care routinely already involves the use of PPE (disposable gloves, disposable apron). However, we would recommend using additional PPE such as fluid resistant surgical mask due to their intimate/personal care needs within 2 metres to ensure they continue to receive their care in the same way. Examples included locally are supporting children going to the toilet in an early years setting and changing a nappy and personal care for a disabled child within a special school and extreme behavioural cases where infection prevention control can't be followed.
- in situations where schools staff are required to perform aerosol generating procedures (AGPS) on children with specific complex medical needs. In these situations, the staff will need to use FFP2s/3s i.e. the ventilator type masks. (See additional notes below)
- if a child, young person or other learner becomes unwell with symptoms of coronavirus while in their setting and needs direct personal care until they can return home. A fluid-resistant surgical face mask should be worn by the supervising adult if a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained. If contact with the child or young person is necessary, then disposable gloves, a disposable apron and a fluid-resistant surgical face mask should be worn by the supervising adult. If a risk assessment determines that there is a risk of splashing to the eyes, for example from coughing, spitting, or vomiting, then eye protection should also be worn.

Please continue to use local supply chains to obtain PPE. Where this is not possible and there is an unmet need for PPE in order to operate safely, then you may approach your local authority, who can support you with alternative suppliers.

Contact details:

Email - cfscommissioningsupport@leics.gov.uk

Phone – 0116 305 1145 (open 9am – 5pm)

Personal protective equipment needed when carrying out aerosol generating procedures in schools

It is unusual for aerosol generating procedures (AGPs) to be undertaken in schools, but some delivering complex care may do so - procedures such as open suctioning of airways when caring for residents with tracheostomies or for others who are receiving ventilator support such as CPAP or NIV BIPAP.

Current PPE guidance recommends that staff need to use the following PPE when they are involved in aerosol generating procedures:

- A filtering face piece class 3 (FFP3) respirator
- Long sleeved fluid repellent gown that covers arms and body
- A full-face shield or visor
- Disposable plastic gloves

We are sure many special schools have reviewed the PHE guidance and have sourced appropriate PPE, arranged for FFP3 mask fit testing and have ensured that their staff understand how to don and doff this more specialised equipment. It is each schools responsibility to ensure that their staff are appropriately equipped. We recognise sourcing PPE can be difficult in the current circumstances and are contacting special schools to establish how many staff are carrying out AGP's, so we can support schools (where required) with mask fit testing for a FFP3 respirator and where required, a small supply of these masks.

The resources at our disposal are limited so can only be actioned on a priority and availability basis and would therefore advise schools that independent FFP3 mask fit testers can be found on the fit2fit website. These independent FFP3 mask fit testers will charge for their service and you will of course need to source FFP3 respirators, through your normal supply network or CFS enquiry email above if this fails.

In the meantime, the Health and Safety Executive has stated that FFP2 respirators also offer protection against COVID-19 and can be used if FFP3 respirators are not available. FFP2 respirators do not need to be fit tested but fit checked. Until you can arrange fit testing for FFP3 respirators, it is recommended that FFP2 be used whenever AGP's are performed.

Ensure that a fit check has been completed, please see the attached guidance on how to put on and fit check an FFP3 respirator. Long sleeved disposable fluid repellent gowns need to be used when carrying out AGP's. These gowns are in very short supply and unfortunately there are none in the Emergency stock. PHE guidance states that the following options can be considered for AGP's if gowns are unavailable:

- Disposable, non-fluid repellent gowns/coveralls with a disposable apron with forearm washing once gown/coverall is removed.
- Re-usable (washable surgical gowns/coveralls or similar suitable clothing e.g. long-sleeved laboratory coat, long sleeved patient gown, industrial coverall) with a disposable apron with forearm washing once the gown/coverall has been removed.

FFP3 Mask Fit Testing Support

Partners across Leicester Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR) have come together to offer fit testing support to schools in difficulty. Please note this support is time limited and will not be an on-going offer. Early Years providers that require this training have already been identified.

Please be aware that you may be contacted with an offer of mask fitting support. In the main, mask fit testing will be via appointment at venues around the Leicestershire and the City. We would ask that you prioritise attendance to a maximum of 8 staff. We can only exceed this in

exceptional circumstances. The current sites are St Johns House, 30 East Street, Leicester, Coalville Community Resource Centre and the Training Room at the Croft Depot, Arbor Road, Croft. When booking, please inform the administrator of your schools FFP3 status. Staff attending must bring the FFP3 masks you are using in your school, so that these can be fit tested; if you don't have any FFP3 masks, one will be provided for the test and an initial supply arranged. Please note some staff may fail the mask fit test and should not perform any AGP until a make and model of FFP3 can be found that properly meets the mask fit test, for that staff member.

This bulletin is going to all schools to ensure that this offer reaches everyone and makes certain that no school is undertaking these procedures without the necessary respirator and fit testing. Please contact the CFS commissioning team via the email above (if you haven't already) to ensure you are identified as needing support.

This guidance has been produced highlighting the personal protective equipment needed when carrying out aerosol generating procedures in schools across Leicestershire and Rutland. Once confirmed the dates of the training will be made available in a future bulletin and on Coronavirus guidance for school providers page.