**Risk assessment of PPE Requirement**

**Instructions for completion. The purpose of this risk assessment template is to assist health and social care providers in Somerset to provide governance and assurance of their decisions in use of PPE in their services. The template should be personalised to the service. Risks and benefits in section 3 should be modified and added to as appropriate. The decision/recommendation in section 4 should be personalised to the service being assessed.**

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| 1. Situation | Guidance on Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for COVID-19 is available nationally but requires local interpretation, assessment and implementation.  Staff working in Households require local guidance on Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for COVID-19 |
| 1. Background | This assessment is for [insert name of service or visit]  The service has a case load of [insert number] residents and has a workforce of [insert number of staff].  The service provides [insert type of service e.g. Childrens Social Care].  The service has had [insert number] of possible/confirmed cases in its caseload and [insert number] amongst staff.  Personal Protective Equipment will be provided to and worn by staff in accordance with current national guidance:  [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\_data/file/879639/covid-19-adult-social-care-action-plan.pdf]  This assessment of risk takes into account the current national position of sustained transmission of COVID-19 and the PPE requirements of Tables 2 and 4 of the national PPE guidance.  <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-infection-prevention-and-control>  Staff will be applying Standard Infection Control Precautions (SICPs) and Transmission Based Precautions (TBPs) for non-COVID-19 infectious conditions.  The application of sessional use for PPE will be in place where appropriate.  PPE is not required when risk is managed through social distancing (e.g. maintaining a distance of 2 metres) or by excluding possible or confirmed cases of COVID-19 from the setting (e.g. in schools) through self-isolation at home. This includes most community and care settings where infection prevention and control good practice should apply, including regular cleaning of surfaces and rigorous handwashing.  PPE is required when:  • staff are unable to maintain 2 metres social distancing in a residential care setting or household  • staff are unable to maintain 2 metres social distancing and it is not possible to ascertain in advance the health status of individuals (i.e. whether or not they have symptoms of COVID-19)  • staff are providing direct care to an individual within a care setting (i.e. gloves, apron, fluid-resistant surgical mask, and eye/face protection subject to risk assessment). Direct care is defined as referring to all caring activities that involve direct physical contact with the client including help with washing, toileting, dressing, oral care and feeding, assistance with medication or walking and getting up/going to bed.  • someone in a residential care setting or if anyone in a household is shielding (i.e. they are in the extremely vulnerable group)  Aerosol Generating Procedures (AGPs) are not usually undertaken by local authority staff. If staff are required to undertake an AGP then a filtering face piece (class 3) (FFP3) respirator, a full-face shield or visor, a disposable long-sleeved fluid repellent coverall/gown (covering arms and body) and gloves should be worn. In these instances, please see the guidance for health professionals.  Staff will receive training in the donning, use and doffing of PPE |
| 1. Assessment | Risks and benefits are detailed for the following two approaches:   1. Application of Table 4 to all staff and to all household settings. 2. A risk-based approach to use of PPE, acknowledging the current state of sustained transmission.  |  |  | | --- | --- | | Approach 1 | | | Benefits | Risks | | * A highly precautionary approach so that all staff are protected at all times when undertaking household visits * No individual assessment of risk needed * Above the gold standard application of guidance | * Inability to provide sufficient PPE for staff when its use is essential due to depletion of PPE supplies * Excessive use could lead to shortage of PPE supplies and implementation of the shortage of PPE policy which would see staff reusing masks * Staff will require more frequent breaks due to the discomfort of wearing PPE for extended periods * Staff may experience skin problems due to excessive use of gloves * Staff will be required to carry high levels of PPE stock |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | Approach 2 | | | Benefits | Risks | | * Meets the requirements of national guidance whilst demonstrating a more individual approach to care * Allows staff to use their personal judgement * Conserves PPE supplies for when they are most necessary * Reinforces the need for standard infection control practices | * Requires individual risk assessment which may differ between staff * Clients and their famliies may be confused if there is no consistency with wearing of PPE due to individual staff assessments * Staff may perceive that they are not being given the appropriate protection whilst working |   Mitigation if a risk-based approach is used:   * Staff will try to ascertain whether an individual or household member meets the case definition for a possible or confirmed case of COVID-19 before the care episode. * An Initial risk assessment for PPE where possible should take place by phone (or by other remote triage) prior to entering the premises or at 2 metres social distancing on entering. * Where the potential risk to health, education and social care workers cannot be established prior to face-to-face assessment or delivery of care within 2 metres, the recommendation is for health, education and social care workers in any setting to have access to and where required wear aprons, gloves, fluid-resistant surgical masks and eye/face protection. |
| 1. Decision/ Recommendation | Staff will be provided with and will wear PPE as set out in the assessment above. Staff who are unsure or who wish to wear PPE that is not in line with this assessment will have the opportunity to discuss this with [insert name/role e.g. Home Manager]. |

Date:

Completed by: