

Safe Home Care and Hospitals PROMOTING THE HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELL-BEING OF HOME CARE AND HEALTH CARE
WORKFORCE

NIEHS Webinar

Preventing Occupational Exposure to COVID-19 in Non-Hospital Healthcare Settings

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Preventing COVID-19 Exposure in Home Care

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Impacts of COVID-19 on Home Care

Importance of HC recognized as pandemic began and HC became a potentially safer alternative to nursing homes

But COVID-19 impacted HC too and new infection prevention practices were needed.

A survey of Massachusetts HC agencies March – June 2020 found:

- 60% provided HC visits to clients who were symptomatic or tested COVID positive
- 76% had home care aides who were symptomatic or tested positive for COVID-19

Open access journal article from Safe Home Care & Betsy Lehman Center for Patient Safety: Impacts of COVID-19 Pandemic on Home Care

https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/1084822320980415

During the COVID-19 Pandemic:



HOME CARE TASKS, EXPOSURE RISK, AND RECOMMENDED PPE

COVID-19 Positive client, positive household member or person under investigation

RISK	Home care activity	
VERY HIGH	Client on oxygen, nebulized medication	
Exposure to respiratory aerosols, droplets	Brushing teeth, feeding, bathing toileting, dressing, client lifting or mobilizing	
HIGH	Changing bed linens, laundry,	
Exposure to body fluids	Cleaning bathrooms, kitchens	
	Cleaning high touch surfaces	



The four exposure risk levels represent probable distribution of risk (OSHA²)

During the COVID-19 Pandemic:



HOME CARE TASKS, EXPOSURE RISK, AND RECOMMENDED PPE

COVID-19 Positive client, positive household member or person under investigation

RISK	Home care activity	PPE
VERY HIGH	Client on oxygen, nebulized medication	
Exposure to respiratory aerosols, droplets	Brushing teeth, feeding, bathing, toileting, dressing, client lifting or mobilizing	Before entering the home, don the following PPE: N95 respirator* Goggles or safety glasses
HIGH	Changing bed linens, laundry,	Face shield
Exposure to body fluids	Cleaning bathrooms, kitchens	Gloves Gown
	Cleaning high touch surfaces	

Safe Home Care Resources COVID-19 Factsheets

https://www.uml.edu/Research/SHCH/Safe-Home-Care/Fact-Sheets.aspx



Fact Sheet Topics

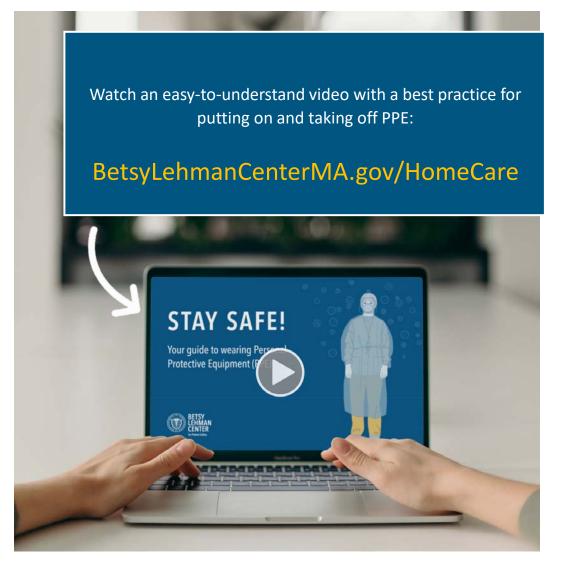
- Safe Cleaning and Disinfection in Home Care during the COVID-19
 Pandemic
- Selecting and Using Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) in Home Care during the COVID-19 Pandemic
- Home Care Tasks, Exposure Risk, and Recommended Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) during the COVID-19 Pandemic
- Cloth Face Coverings & Infection Prevention in Home Care during the COVID-19 Pandemic - Guidance for Home Care Agencies and Aides

Safe Home Care Project Research to Practice Fact Sheet

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Betsy Lehman Center for Patient Safety partnered with Safe Home Care Project, Home Care Agencies, 1199/SEIU, Executive Office of Elder Affairs in MA



Know how to safely use PPE

A Massachusetts home care aide shows how to wear personal protective equipment (PPE).

English | Español | Kreyòl ayisyen | Português

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Also: New Report – Home care workers voice COVID-19 challenges & ideas for change: https://betsylehmancenterma.gov/assets/uploads/FromTheFrontlines Report.pdf

Thank you!

Muchas gracias!

Safe Home Care Project Research to Practice Fact Sheet

www.uml.edu/SafeHC

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