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](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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RISK</th>
<th>Home care activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>VERY HIGH</strong></td>
<td>Client on oxygen, nebulized medication</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exposure to respiratory aerosols, droplets</td>
<td>Brushing teeth, feeding, bathing toileting, dressing, client lifting or mobilizing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HIGH</strong></td>
<td>Changing bed linens, laundry, cleaning bathrooms, kitchens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exposure to body fluids</td>
<td>Cleaning high touch surfaces</td>
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</tbody>
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During the COVID-19 Pandemic:

**HOME CARE TASKS, EXPOSURE RISK, AND RECOMMENDED PPE**

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<th>PPE</th>
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<td><strong>VERY HIGH</strong></td>
<td>Client on oxygen, nebulized medication</td>
<td>Before entering the home, don the following PPE:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Brushing teeth, feeding, bathing, toileting, dressing, client lifting or mobilizing</td>
<td>- N95 respirator*</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Goggles or safety glasses</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Face shield</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Gloves</td>
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Safe Home Care Resources
COVID-19 Factsheets


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
www.uml.edu/SafeHC safehomecare@uml.edu
Know how to safely use PPE

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

Watch an easy-to-understand video with a best practice for putting on and taking off PPE:

BetsyLehmanCenterMA.gov/HomeCare

Thank you!
Muchas gracias!