



Safe Home Care & Hospitals

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

February 17, 2021

Preventing COVID-19 Exposure in Home Care

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Funded by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health/CDC

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

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

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

BetsyLehmanCenterMA.gov/HomeCare

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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