



From: Janice Fitzgerald, Chief Medical Officer of Health (Acting)

Re: COVID-19 Information

Date: March 19, 2020

Personal Protective Equipment Required for Care of Clients With or Suspected of COVID-19

A fit-tested N95 respirator (including eye protection) should be used by all health care workers when aerosol-generating medical procedures (AGMPs) are being performed on a person under investigation for COVID-19 infection.

AGMPs are medical procedures that can generate aerosols as a result of artificial manipulation of a person's airway. AGMPs should only be performed on patients with signs and symptoms and exposure criteria consistent with COVID-19 infection, if medically necessary. Strategies to reduce aerosol generation should be applied, and the number of health care workers present during an AGMP should be limited to those essential for patient care and support.

NL took the precautionary approach to include nasopharyngeal sampling in the category of an aerosol generating procedure. Much more information is available about this disease now than when this recommendation was first made. As a result **nasopharyngeal sampling is no longer considered an aerosol generating procedure and an N95 mask is no longer required to be worn for this procedure. A surgical mask with eye protection is recommended.**