



MINISTRY OF HEALTH
SINGAPORE

MH 34:24/8

MOH Circular No. 39/2020

7 Feb 2020

All Dental Clinics, Specialist and other Private Clinics,

GUIDANCE ON PPE USE FOR HEALTHCARE WORKERS DURING DORSCON ORANGE

The Circular on Guidance on PPE use for Healthcare Workers in the Management of Suspected/ Confirmed cases of Wuhan Virus Infection During DORSCON YELLOW was disseminated to all public and private healthcare institutions on 31 Jan 2020. This Circular provides guidance on PPE use during DORSCON ORANGE.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR PPE USE DURING DORSCON ORANGE

2. Please note the following guiding principles:
 - a. Staff protection and patient safety are the priority in the course of providing clinical care.
 - b. A risk-based approach is to be adopted for PPE use by staff:
 - i. The type of PPEs used should be dependent on risk areas (Table 1);
 - ii. PPEs should be reserved for staff handling or caring for suspected and confirmed cases;
 - iii. Consider exposure risk when handling or caring for close contacts. 'Close contacts' defined as approximately within 2 metres to the case with prolonged contact time;
 - iv. Other risk factors include: types of care procedures performed (e.g. PPE when taking nasal and throat swab specimens), patient's condition (e.g. don surgical mask when caring for transplant and renal patients, etc.), care environment (e.g. rooms with appropriate ventilation).
 - c. **Appropriate and responsible usage of PPEs** must be strictly observed to ensure rational and sustainable PPE use in our system.



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Table 1: Guidance on PPE use during DORSCON ORANGE in different settings and clinical areas

Settings	Clinical Areas	Recommended use of PPE			
		Yellow	Frequency of PPE use	Orange	Frequency of PPE use
SOCs, other ambulatory services e.g. Pharmacy, Radiology, Physio, Dental Clinics, other Specialist Clinics [#]	Triage staff	Surgical mask	Extended use up to 6 hrs [^]	Surgical mask	Extended use up to 6 hrs [^]
	All other areas	No mask required; surgical mask if droplet precaution needed	-	Surgical mask	Extended use up to 6 hrs [^]
All other non-clinical areas [^]	Administrative, offices, store rooms, etc. where there is no direct patient contact	No PPE required	-	No PPE required	-

Footnotes:

[^]Extended use should be for the period when staff are in clinical areas (exceptions include evident contamination of PPE e.g. blood spillage, soiled, or soggy, in which case staff should change PPEs). Staff must strictly adhere to hand hygiene practices in addition to PPE use to prevent cross contamination.

[#] SOC/ Dental/ other private specialist clinic attendances should be provided screening questions for travel history and respiratory symptoms, and these cases should be referred to ED/ GP clinics for further triage if the patient fulfils criteria for suspect case or when assessed to be of high risk by a clinician.

[^]Laboratories are to continue with their own current PPE measures

3. The above is for all healthcare facilities' immediate and strict compliance. Please ensure that the contents of this circular are brought to the attention of all relevant personnel in your institution.



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