

Covid-19

Personal Protective Equipment & Home Visiting

Introduction

The following guidance has been written to ensure that visits to people and children using services are carried out in the safest way possible to continue providing vital social care services. That where necessary Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is used appropriately. .

PPE is in high demand nationally and resources are scarce, we need to maximise what we have and ask everyone to only take precautions that are proportionate to the level of risk in accordance with [Public Health England advice](#).

This guidance is for:

- PA's employed by people receiving a direct payment from the County Council
- Shared Lives and Foster Carers
- Volunteers who are assisting the Council with providing support for Covid-19.

Conducting a visit

If a visit is required, you should take the following steps:

Pre-visit

Before carrying out the visit you need to:

- ✓ **Contact the person, the child's family** or their representatives via telephone to ask:

1. Does the person feel well today?
2. Do they, or anyone they live with, have any symptoms of Covid-19?

a. **A new continuous cough**

AND / OR

b. **High temperature** (of 37.8c or higher)

- ✓ You should [wash your hands](#) for 20 seconds before leaving for your visit.
- ✓ **Remove jewellery and nail varnish**
- ✓ Wear **short sleeves**
- ✓ If possible, take **soap/hand sanitiser** with you
- ✓ If you are **collecting** anything, take **2 large bin-bags** to help you transport the items safely

At the visit

If there are NO SYMPTOMS...

If there are no symptoms for anyone in the property you should:

- ✓ Send a **text message or phone on arrival** so you don't have to knock on the door.
- ✓ **Ask again** if there is anyone in the property displaying symptoms of Covid-19
- ✓ **Either;**
 - **Wear PPE gloves** (if available) before entering the persons home and remove them when leaving, turning them inside out to take them off and placing them in a sealed bag

Or if no gloves are available

- **Wash your hands** on leaving the persons property and use hand sanitiser once outside the door and before you get into your car.
- ✓ If possible, have discussions in an **outdoor space** if confidentiality can be maintained, or use the biggest room available and suggest keeping a window open.
- ✓ **Don't touch your face.**
- ✓ **Avoid touching surfaces or objects** within the home if possible
- ✓ **Maintain a distance of at least 2 meters** from any individual unless carrying out personal care.
- ✓ **Wash your hands** with soap and water when you arrive at the next building/ home

If you are providing **personal care** then you should wear the **normal PPE equipment** e.g. Aprons, fresh gloves for the personal care intervention.

If you are delivering anything arrange to leave any item for drop-off in a safe place or where you can see them collect it (for example in front of the front door, where you can stand back and watch them pick it up).

If there ARE SYMPTOMS...

If there are symptoms for anyone in the property and your manager agrees that a visit is essential, you should follow the guidance above but also:

- ✓ **Use personal protective equipment (PPE)** for activities that bring you into close personal contact, such as washing and bathing, personal hygiene and contact with bodily fluids. Aprons, gloves and fluid repellent surgical masks should be used in these situations. If there is a risk of splashing, then eye protection will minimise the risk.
- ✓ **Use new personal protective equipment for each episode.**
- ✓ **Store disposable PPE equipment safely** within **disposable rubbish bags**. These should then be placed into another bag, tied securely and kept separate from other waste within the room. This should be put aside for at least 72 hours before being put in the usual household waste bin.

More detail on the appropriate use of PPE can be found in [Appendix A](#).

Where can I get PPE?

PPE can be collected from [Oxfordshire Community Support Services](#) during opening hours.

- You will need to provide the **name of the person** you are supporting
- Please go to reception and not further into the building – **maintain social distancing**
- When supplies are low you will only be provided with **enough to last you for planned visits over a couple of days** - to ensure that the supplies do not run out
- **Please do not argue** with the staff providing you with the equipment they are only carrying out instructions. Any disputes will be escalated to a senior manager for a decision which will not be immediate.
- Hand Sanitiser is available for refills (maximum 100ml). N.B. You will need to bring your own bottle.

Community Support Service PPE Collection Points

Opening Hours 8.30am – 3.30pm, Monday - Friday

Abingdon CSS	Audlett Drive, Abingdon, OX14 3GD	
	Tel: 01865 897104	Email: abingdonCSS@oxfordshire.gov.uk
Banbury CSS	Neithrop Avenue, Banbury, OX16 2NT	
	Tel: 01865 897101	Email: banburyCSS@oxfordshire.gov.uk
Bicester CSS	Launton Road, Bicester, OX26 6DJ	
	Tel: 01865 897105	Email: bicesterCSS@oxfordshire.gov.uk
Didcot CSS	The Meadows, Britwell Road, Didcot, OX11 7JN	
	Tel: 01865 897100	Email: didcottCSS@oxfordshire.gov.uk
Oxford CSS	Awgar Stone Road, Horspath Driftway, Oxford, OX3 7JQ	
	Tel: 01865 897102	Email: oxfordCSS@oxfordshire.gov.uk
Wallingford CSS	51 High Street, Wallingford, OX10 0DB	
	Tel: 01865 897106	Email: wallingfordCSS@oxfordshire.gov.uk
Wantage CSS	Charlton Village Road, Wantage, OX12 7HG	
	Tel: 01865 897103	Email: wantageCSS@oxfordshire.gov.uk
Witney CSS	6 Moorland Road, OX28 6LF	
	Tel: 01865 897107	Email: witneyCSS@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Appendix A: Appropriate use of PPE

For Social Care staff, Residential care, supported care, homecare, Shared Lives and Fostering

Scenario	PPE				Additional items	
	Disposable plastic apron (single use)	Disposable gloves (single use)	Fluid repellent surgical mask (single use)	Eye Protection (single use if possible) **	Disposable bags (for waste) *	Hand hygiene (hand wash/sanitiser)
Well staff visiting well people	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓
Well staff providing care with close personal contact to ill people	✓	✓	✓	✓ (where there is risk of splashing)	✓	✓
Well staff helping ill people without close contact (> 2m distance)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓
Well staff cleaning places where ill people have been	✓	✓	✗ (Unless visible bodily fluids)	✗ (Unless visible bodily fluids)	✓	✓

* Waste must be disposed in plastic bag and tied, placed into second bag and tied, stored in a secure place for 72 hours, then put in normal waste collection service

** If single use eye protection is not available, it must be washed and dried between clients

*** Close personal contact such as washing and bathing, personal hygiene, contact with bodily fluids

National Guidance

- [COVID-19: Residential Care, Supported Living and Home Care guidance](#)
- [COVID-19: Cleaning in non-healthcare settings guidance](#)