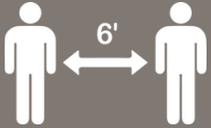


In-Home Visits for Social Workers

Use and Conservation of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)



PPE does not replace physical distancing, frequent handwashing, or avoiding touching your face, eyes, and mouth.

Due to shortages of PPE, your agency should consider taking steps to conserve your supply of PPE by:



Only using PPE when necessary.



Conserving necessary PPE through extended use and limited reuse when applicable.

When to Wear PPE:

Situation	PPE to Use
Going inside residences	Face mask or cloth face covering if face mask is not available, gloves
Work requiring close physical contact with people who are well	Face mask or cloth face covering if face mask is not available, gloves
Work requiring close physical contact with people who are ill, including people who are confirmed or suspected positive for COVID-19	Face mask, gloves, and additional protection such as a face shield or goggles if a face shield is not available Gown or single-use coveralls, if possible

Note: A cloth face covering is not intended to protect the wearer from the virus, but it may prevent the spread of the virus from the wearer to others.

How to Use and Conserve PPE



Face masks or cloth coverings worn around someone who is sick should be thrown out, or in the case of cloth coverings, decontaminated before reuse. For extended use, wash hands before and after taking off the used mask. Store the mask between uses in a clean, sealable paper bag or breathable container. Dispose of paper bag after daily use and wash container before reuse. Wash cloth face coverings daily.

If your glove supply does not allow you to frequently change and dispose of gloves when visiting locations with shared common spaces, such as group homes, use hand sanitizer on your gloves before moving on to the next private space in the group home. You should always dispose of gloves and wash your hands when exiting the residence to travel to a new location.



For extended use of goggles or face shields, do not touch or adjust your eye protection; if touching or adjusting, wash hands. If eye protection becomes visibly soiled, remove, clean, and disinfect.

Other Best Practices

- Maintain physical distancing of at least six feet whenever possible; limit close contact time if unable to distance
- Wash hands with soap and water or sanitize often; if only sanitizer is initially used, wash hands with soap and water as soon as possible
- Avoid touching your face, eyes, and mouth
- Cover coughs or sneezes with elbow

Additional Resources:

- [CDC Guidance on PPE Optimization](#)
- [WI DHS Guidance on PPE](#)
- [CDC Information on Cloth Face Covers](#)
- [WI DHS How to Make a Cloth Face Covering Without Sewing](#)
- [WI Department of Children and Families COVID-19 Guidance](#)
- [WI DHS Conserving PPE: Face Masks, Face Shields, and Goggles](#)
- [WI DHS Limited Reuse, Removal, Storage, and Retrieval of PPE](#)

