



PPE Recommendations for Dental Practices

| Dental Practice Scenarios | Surgical Mask | N95/KN95 | Face Shield | Eye Protection & Side Shield | Gloves | Clinical Attire** | Gown | Head Cover | Dedicated Shoes/Covers |
|--|-----------------------|----------|-------------|------------------------------|--------|-------------------|------|------------|------------------------|
| Administrative | Level 1 | | = | | | | | | |
| Pre-Visit Patient Temperature Screening | Level 1 | | | | | | | | |
| Lab/Instrument Processing + | Level 2 | | Choose one | | | | | | |
| No Fluid ^ | Level 1 | | Choose one | | | | | | |
| Low Fluid ^ | Level 2 | | Choose one | | | | | | |
| Moderate-Heavy Spray/Aerosol Generating Procedures # | L3 if N95 unavailable | * | | | | | | | |

Recommended
 Optional
 Not Recommended

While it is understood that aerosols are produced in various ways, both organically by the patient and through various dental procedures, it is still unknown how exactly the virus is transmitted. Based on current studies and guidelines, these recommendations reflect what levels of adequate PPE will protect patients and dental team members.

* During PPE shortage, surgical masks should be prioritized for dental team members providing direct patient care and may be an acceptable alternative in addition to a full-face shield when N95/KN95 or higher masks are not available. The use of a Level 3 mask instead of an N95/KN95 mask may carry a higher risk for transmission due to the lack of a respirator seal, without which limits the mask's protection primarily to splatter and droplets.

- ** If consistent with office uniform policy, dental team members should change out of street clothes into clinical attire upon arrival to the office. Although clinical attire is not considered PPE under the dental practice act. Lab coats worn as the outermost garment that provide adequate protection for the employee may be considered PPE. A gown may be a more appropriate choice of protective attire for most dental procedures.
- = Alternatives to a face shield may include the installation of a sneeze guard or the mandate that patients wear masks in the reception area. If such a policy is implemented, dental practices should consider providing Level 1 masks to patients who arrive without a mask.
- ^ PPE in these scenarios should be changed between patients when visibly wet or soiled.
- # PPE, including gowns, should be changed between patients. Follow CDC guidelines for mask extended use, reuse, and decontamination.
- + For staff performing in-office laundering duties, it is recommended that a Level 1 or 2 surgical mask, face shield or eye protection, gloves, clinical attire, and gown are worn. Follow established protocols for donning and doffing for cleaning patient care areas.

Resources

- [NIOSH-Approved N95 Manufacturers](#)
- [Authorized Imported Non-NIOSH Approved Respirator Manufacturers](#)
- [CDC Recommended Guidance for Extended Use and Limited Reuse of N95 Masks](#)
- [CDC Crisis Standards of Care Decontamination Recommendations for Respirators](#)
- [CDC Strategies for Optimizing PPE Supply](#)