

Sessional Use Guidance

The updated [PPE Guidance](#) issued by Public Health England on Thursday 2nd April, states that fluid resistant surgical facemasks (FRSM) and eye protection such as goggles/visors, can be worn continuously over a 'session' and not changed between residents.

The guidance states "A single session refers to a period of time where a health and social care worker is undertaking duties in a specific clinical care setting or exposure environment....The duration of a single session will vary depending on the clinical activity being undertaken."

To assist you with your planning and sensible usage of these items, here is a view from the Infection Prevention and Control Team as to what this may mean for your service.

Within a care home or supported living service, a session might be the duration of the shift. However, it is expected that the FRSM will be changed as follows:

- When the care worker goes for a break. A new FRSM will be needed on return to duties.
- If the FRSM is soiled.
- If the FRSM is uncomfortable.
- If the FRSM is damaged.
- If the FRSM becomes moist.

Before any FRSM is worn, the care worker **MUST** watch [a video on how to put on and take off](#) properly.

Gloves and apron remain single resident use only and changed between resident/tasks.

When removing any item of PPE, the care worker **MUST** decontaminate their hands. Care staff should be bare below the elbows. If there is a risk of splashing from providing direct care, when removing PPE and washing hands, staff should include washing below their elbows also.

A link to the [IPC Webpage](#) has instructions on how to put on and take off PPE, and wash hands appropriately.

Infection Prevention and Control Team – 04/04/2020