

PPE guidance for volunteers

Summary of the Public Health England Guidance

In all circumstances there are some overarching principles which, when adhered to across the whole system, make a massive difference to transmission rates. These include:

- Good hand hygiene
- Avoiding contacts where it is possible to do so
- Where it is necessary to have a face to face contact maintaining a 2 metre distance where possible
- Following self-isolation guidance when symptoms present in you, or a household contact.

It is extremely important that all staff across the public sector have access to the PPE that they need to keep them safe. For precisely this reason, it is also essential to only use PPE when it is required, to ensure sustainability of supply chains throughout this crisis. Public Health England have issued guidance on how to put on, and take off PPE correctly:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-personal-protective-equipment-use-for-non-aerosol-generating-procedures>

This guidance refers to **volunteers**. At present, the exact roles that volunteers will play are still being established. Therefore, this guidance summary is subject to change, as the volunteer roles are more firmly established. At present it is understood that volunteers will predominantly be assisting by transporting goods, equipment, medicines etc. but not people. In particular, not people who fall into the vulnerable or shielded category. In light of this, PPE will not be required for volunteers, as per the PHE guidance.

The evidence suggests that transmission of the virus via objects which are handled and delivered is very low. However, it is vital that volunteers are very vigilant with hand washing, coughing/sneezing into tissues, and never working when they are symptomatic (new, continuous cough, or temperature).

This guidance has been sourced from the following document:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-how-to-help-safely--2>

<https://www.who.int/news-room/q-a-detail/q-a-coronaviruses>

It is recognised that this crisis represents a dynamic situation. If you therefore have any comments or suggestions on this guidance summary, please contact the public health team using: AskDrLiz@cambridgeshire.gov.uk