

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Health

Senate Select Committee on COVID-19

Australian Government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic

13 May 2020

PDR Number: IQ20-000224

AHPPPC recommendations of PPE for paramedics

Written

Senator: Katy Gallagher

Question

With regards to PPE what does AHPPPC recommend as appropriate PPE for paramedics transferring patients who are already diagnosed with COVID-19 or as suspected of having it?

Answer:

Paramedics should apply contact and droplet precautions when undertaking clinical care of patients who are confirmed or suspected cases of COVID-19.

The following PPE should be donned:

- A long sleeved, preferably fluid-resistant gown or apron;
- Disposable, non-sterile gloves when in direct contact with the patient;
- Eye protection (safety glasses or face shield); and
- A surgical mask. For routine care, a level 1 mask is appropriate.

If an aerosol generating procedure is being performed, contact and airborne precautions should be used. A particulate filter respirator (P2/N95), which has been fit-checked, should be worn instead of a surgical mask. Aerosol generating procedures include instrumentation or surgical procedures of the respiratory tract and other procedures that can generate respiratory aerosols such as manual or non-invasive ventilation and high flow nasal oxygen.

After the clinical encounter, ambulance surfaces should be wiped clean with detergent/disinfectant by a person wearing gloves, gown and surgical mask.

An information sheet for paramedics and ambulance first responders about COVID-19 is available at: <https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-paramedics-and-ambulance-first-responders>