

Worker Respiratory Infection Safety Tool

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| <p>Can infected patients/patients whose COVID-19 status is unknown be excluded from treatment by workers in the local context being assessed?</p> | <p>YES</p> <p>Consider implications of exclusion and plans to provide alternative support</p> | <p>NO</p> <p>Consider other controls below</p> | <p>Note</p> <p>This is “Elimination” which is the most effective protection of workers, but unlikely to be an option for the health and care services.</p> |
| <p>Can patients be treated virtually or supported through telephone or signposted to information?</p> | <p>YES</p> <p>Consider long-term risks to the patient, increased health inequalities and service demand implications</p> | <p>NO</p> <p>Consider other controls below</p> | <p>Note</p> <p>This is “Substitution” and is an effective control, but may not be an option for many treatments or on a regular basis.</p> |
| <p>Can engineered solutions sufficiently reduce the risk to HCW as per the risk assessment (e.g. ventilation)?</p> | <p>YES</p> <p>Consider factors which may effect the effectiveness and maintenance of engineering controls</p> | <p>NO</p> <p>Consider controls below</p> | <p>Note</p> <p>These are “Engineering Controls” and ventilation is not going to be effective in preventing close range transmission of airborne and short range infections (less than 1m) required during direct patient/client care.</p> |
| <p>Can effective distancing (e.g. through space management), combined with managed exposure durations, reduce exposure to infectious transmission risks?</p> | <p>YES</p> <p>Consider factors which may impact the continued effectiveness of space management</p> | <p>NO</p> <p>Apply RPE Use Checklist assessment and deploy – urgently highlight the need to improve any higher level controls to management</p> | <p>Note</p> <p>This is Personal Protective Equipment, including respiratory protective equipment (RPE), which does not include FRSM (used for source control). Note that RPE failure will result in exposure. There are no further controls.</p> |
| <p>Can RPE be adequately managed having applied the RPE use checklist?</p> | <p>YES</p> <p>Ensure that there is an RPE step-down plan through the application of other better controls where possible</p> | <p>NO</p> <p>Exposing workers to this would amount to an illegal and dangerous risk. Seek urgent management support to enable compliance with Health and Safety duties</p> | <p>Note</p> <p>IPC guidance does not override the duties required under the Health and safety at Work Act . If a local risk assessment determines RPE is required, then suitable and sufficient RPE must be made readily available by the employer.</p> |