

COVID-19 SUPPORT WORKER PRECAUTIONS

Higher Index of Suspicion Criteria for COVID-19

Person has (in last 14 days)

- Had contact with a confirmed or probable case of Covid-19.
- Travelled overseas.
- Had direct contact with a person who has travelled overseas (e.g. Customs and Immigration staff).
- Had contact with staff at quarantine/isolation facilities or international aircraft/shipping vessel, international airport or maritime port.

NOTE:

If you or any members of your household are unwell with respiratory symptoms or meet the Higher index of suspicion criteria – notify your Coordinator immediately and Healthline for medical advice.

Safety Procedure When Visiting Clients:

On arrival, while maintaining social distancing of 2metres, the support worker must ask the client if they, or any household member:

- Has a confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19?
- Is unwell with respiratory symptoms including cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, coryza (runny nose) or temporary loss of smell, with or without fever?

Ask, in the past 14 days, have your or any family member:

- Had contact with a confirmed or probable case of Covid-19?
- Meet any of the criteria for Higher Index of Suspicion (above)

NO

Support Workers to use standard precautions, including fresh mask for every visit

During the visit:

- If possible, maintain physical distancing from the client and household members (remain more than 2 metres away).
- Perform hand hygiene.
- If <2 metre contact is required use appropriate PPE.
- Reinforce cough, sneeze and hand hygiene with the client.
- If using PPE, change after each client. Seal used PPE in a plastic bag and dispose safely.

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**The Support Worker advises the client that the Clinical Manager will be in contact and the appointment rescheduled. Apologise and leave.
Notify your Coordinator immediately.**

Standard Precautions

Standard precautions are used to prevent spread of diseases that can be acquired by contact with blood, body fluids, non-intact skin and mucous membranes and should be used for all personal care tasks.

They're based on a risk assessment and make use of common-sense practices and personal protective equipment use that protect healthcare workers from infection and prevent the spread of infection from patient to patient.

Standard precautions in homecare settings include:

1. Hand hygiene – frequent washing of hands between tasks and clients (20 seconds) or hand sanitizer.
2. PPE – Use of personal protective equipment as indicated (e.g. gloves, masks, eyewear, gown/apron).
3. Respiratory hygiene / cough etiquette.
4. Safe handling of linen and laundry- wear gloves and apron if soiled linen.
5. Cleaning and disinfection of environmental surfaces.

How to wear a mask: Refer MOH document