PERSONAL PROTECTION EQUIPMENT

Personal protective equipment is protective clothing, helmets, goggles, or other garments or equipment designed to protect the wearer's body from injury or infection. The hazards addressed by protective equipment include physical, electrical, heat, chemicals, biohazards, and airborne particulate matter. Businesses should keep a minimum quantity of 15-day supply of PPE. PPE can include masks, face shields and gloves.

WHO SHOULD WEAR MASKS?

Medical and isolation team members
Health screeners (i.e. a supervisor who takes employees' temperature)
Disinfection team members
Those with broad exposure to customers or employees.

WHO SHOULD WEAR FACE SHIELDS?

Face shields are commonly used in healthcare and manufacturing. They can provide extra protection for those who must work within three feet of another person due to their job requirements. They are not necessary unless you work in healthcare/manufacturing, but they can help.

WHO SHOULD WEAR GLOVES?

Employees in isolation
Those performing disinfection of common surfaces
Employees handling trash
Employees handling food

Note: Gloves put employees at higher risk of exposure and are not recommended for general protective use for the following reasons:

• The COVID-19 virus does not harm your hands, so gloves provide no protection, and touching your face with contaminated hands, whether gloved or not, poses a significant risk of infection.

• Gloves often create a false sense of security for the individuals wearing them; people are more likely to touch contaminated surfaces because they feel they are protected from the virus be cause of the gloves when in reality, they are not.

• When wearing gloves, people are less inclined to wash their hands; this is counterproductive and puts others at higher risk; we want people to wash their hands because it is the num ber-one defense against any virus.

• Proper removal of gloves takes training; if contaminated gloves are not removed properly, our employees are exposed to greater risk.