

B.C. Public Health guidance on masks for CLBC service providers

CLBC receives many questions from service providers about which masks should be used in social service settings, masks that should be used in group homes when there is a positive COVID case, and when to use N95 respirators. Here is the current guidance from the BC CDC to the social services sector.

Three main kinds of masks: Cloth, Medical, N95

The BCCDC outlines three key kinds of masks for use in CLBC funded services: cloth masks (home made or bought), medical/surgical masks, and N95 respirators. These are outlined here:

<http://www.bccdc.ca/Health-Info-Site/Documents/Face-masks.pdf>

Use a cloth or disposable mask in a social services residential setting where there is no COVID

Currently, good fitting cloth or disposable masks are appropriate as a protective measure in social service residential setting where there are no COVID cases. WorkSafeBC provides general guidelines for social services settings including residential and community settings. [See the residential setting protocols section of the web site here](#), and the section related to proper use of masks.

Use a medical mask when caring for someone with COVID

The BC CDC recommends use of a medical mask for all those are providing care for someone who has tested positive for COVID. You can find this information here: <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/prevention-risks/masks> .

Use a N95 only for someone with COVID-19 where client care involves Aerosol Generating Medical Procedures (AGMP) – e.g. individual who uses a CPAP machine

N95 masks are only necessary and recommended in a residential services setting where there is a positive case AND for specific procedures, such as CPAP. See these guidelines:

http://www.bccdc.ca/Health-Professionals-Site/Documents/AGMPs_requiring_N95.pdf