



Personal Protective Equipment Coach role

Monash Health is committed to ensuring the safety of its employees, patients, and families through the correct use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

The introduction of the PPE Coach provides support to all our employees in COVID and Suspected COVID (SCOVID) wards or units, to ensure we are complying with current PPE Tier conventional uses to meet safe standards. This includes continuous support for PPE application and removal, 24 hours a day, seven days-a-week, to a minimum ratio of 1:8.

The PPE Coach role is not to act as a clinician in patient direct-care roles, but to monitor correct PPE application and removal as an effective, trained observer who:

- spots defects in equipment
- is proactive in identifying risks
- follows an application and removal checklist of potential risk points, with a clear outcome focus to correct safe application and removal of PPE
- is informative, supportive, and appropriately paced in issuing instructions or advice
- always practices hand hygiene immediately after providing assistance.

The intent is to provide ongoing support, direct observational guidance, and advice or escalation, to ensure Monash Health employees are familiar and compliant with PPE processes and use.

Coach responsibilities

It is the responsibility of the PPE Coach within designated areas in wards/units to:

- Ensure areas station has correct PPE posters and resources such as masks, gowns, gloves, hand hygiene products, and disposal bags/containers
- Ensure allocated area employees and visitors are applying and removing PPE according to correct and current organisational protocols and procedures
- Control and recognise potential breaches in correct PPE application and removal
- Provide advice where employees need adjustment to adhere with the correct procedure
- Provide feedback confirming correct use or identifying incorrect use of PPE
- Provide coaching for employees in break-out rooms where required e.g. social distancing, PPE removal, cleaning and storage

- Where a breach occurs during care or removal process, escalate to Infection Prevention for assessment and potential furlough. Inform Nurse in Charge of escalation
- Engage and communicate with the NM/MM, or RN/RM In Charge
- Discuss PPE concerns, queries and education required.

Escalation process

Where unsure, concerned, or a query is unresolved, escalation should move to the next level:

1. Locally to nurse/midwife manager or RN/RM in charge
2. Site Infection Prevention Lead
3. NCO
4. DCO
5. Site DON
6. General Manager.

Application and Removal, PPE Coach Checklist

The checklist supports the PPE Coach in checking and communicating safe and correct PPE application and removal. It should be used to support all employees applying or removing PPE.

While working through the checklist:

- Call out the steps using a clear voice with actions to support the safety of the employee who is applying or removing PPE.
- Lead with calm and clear directions and approval while moving through the checklist.
- Proceed at a slow and careful pace.
- Although you will be following the checklist step by step, know that there are also differences in facilities that may require you to customise your participation according to your site's resources, equipment, and physical layout.
- Provide advice where potential or near-miss PPE breaches have occurred. These suggestions will help clinicians identify and avoid possible future protocol breaches.

