

Hierarchy of Controls: Personal Protective Equipment

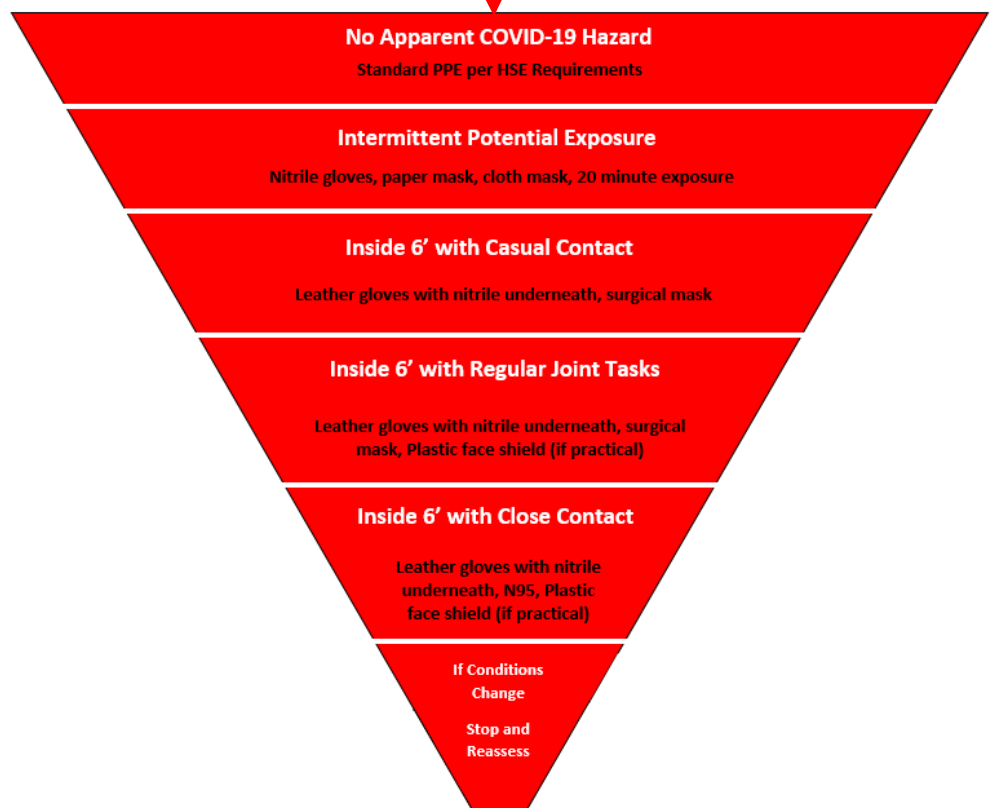
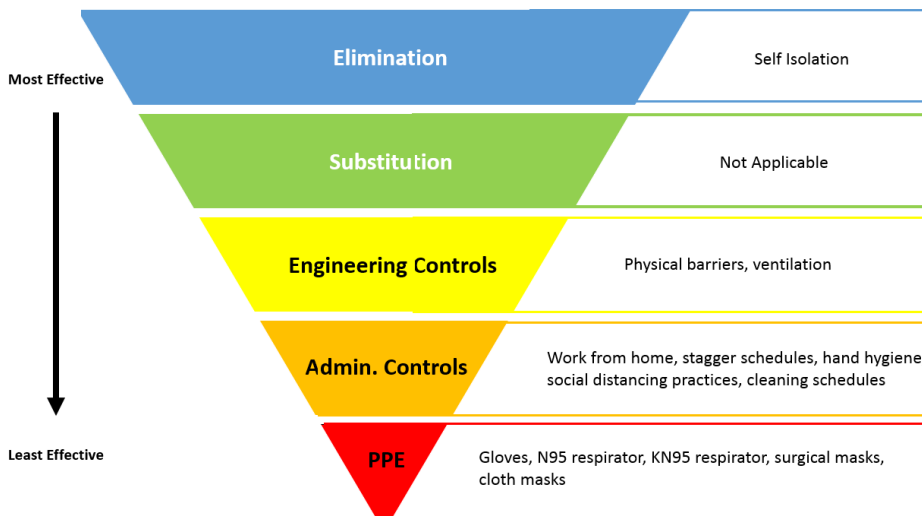
Controlling exposures to occupational hazards is the fundamental method of protecting workers. Traditionally, a hierarchy of controls has been used as a means of determining how to implement feasible and effective control solutions. As it relates to COVID-19 the following steps are applicable:

1. Pre Job Planning
2. Fit for Duty Form
3. Pre Job Hazard Assessment
4. Toolbox Talk including Communication and Questions
5. Controls implemented/inspected and verified including PPE

Elimination of the hazard through detailed advanced planning is the most effective measure of control as it completely removes the hazard from the workplace, or removes the worker from the hazard.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is considered the least effective measure of control as the worker is exposed to the hazard and can cause an elevated confidence if the equipment is ill-fitting, the wrong selection for the task, or worn improperly, the risk of incident can increase.

For the purposes of COVID19, the following hierarchy of controls are examples



After PPE has been identified as a control, the next step is to determine the appropriate level of protection required in the circumstances.

The PPE triangle, shown to the right, identifies potential COVID-19 conditions and the minimum requirements of PPE that should be worn.