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April 1, 2022

**To:** All Operations, Community Paramedicine and Education & Development Staff

**From:** Jennifer Shield  
A/Deputy Chief, Program Development and Service Quality

**Re:** **PPE Update – CMOH Directive #4 for Paramedics**

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On December 17, 2021, Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health issued an update to [Directive #4 for Ambulance Services and Paramedics](#) containing PPE guidance for Paramedics.

With the rise in cases associated with the COVID-19 Omicron variant and easing of public health restrictions, Paramedics must ensure the following PPE practices are being adhered to on all emergency calls:

- The point of care risk assessment (PCRA) **must** be performed prior to every patient interaction.
- If the patient fails the PCRA, a fit-tested, seal-checked N95 mask, goggles or face shield, gown and gloves are required to be worn.
- If a patient is anticipated to require an aerosol-generating medical procedure (AGMP), regardless of PCRA outcome, an N95 respirator and goggles or face shield are required.
- Based on the PCRA, it may be appropriate to don an N95 respirator for situations other than COVID-19.

For patients who pass the PCRA, gowns are no longer routinely required. As always, Paramedics may use their clinical judgement and don additional PPE as appropriate.

Please remember to adhere to PPE guidelines while in hospital:

- Surgical masks (at minimum) are required at all times.
- N95 and goggles or face shield is mandatory in areas where patient care procedures are being performed.

Thank you for your ongoing efforts in keeping yourselves, your colleagues and your patients safe.

Sincerely,

*(Original signed by)*  
Jennifer Shield

c.: P. Raftis, Deputy Chiefs, Communications Review, Staff Support Centre