

Harm reduction worker safety during the COVID-19 global pandemic

NATIONAL RAPID GUIDANCE RECOMMENDATIONS

THIS DOCUMENT DOES NOT SUPERSEDE A PROVIDER'S CLINICAL EXPERIENCE AND DECISION-MAKING SKILLS.

VERSION 2 GUIDANCE DOCUMENT

Screening

Screening can help reduce the risk of spreading the virus and help staff quickly respond to any suspected cases.



Staff should stay at home and self-isolate if they have any COVID-19 symptoms or test positive for the virus.



Ask clients if they have any COVID-19 symptoms upon entering the site (remember to keep a 2m distance).



Post signage around the site to help staff and clients self-identify if they have any COVID-19 symptoms.



Ask all clients to wear a medical mask while at the site.

If a client screens positive for COVID-19 symptoms, they should:

wear a
medical mask



wash hands
or sanitize



wait in an
isolated area

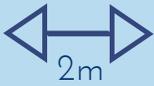


follow-up with
public health



Physical Distancing

A 2m distance (6 ft) between staff and clients reduces the risk of virus spread.



Use physical barriers (e.g. plexiglass windows or high walled cubicles) and highlight 2m spaces using physical markers (e.g. taped lines, cones or chairs).



Use every other injection booth/table at supervised consumption sites.



Open windows to increase ventilation, if possible and when weather permits.

Hand Hygiene

Good hand hygiene is a critical part of preventing the spread of COVID-19.



Provide easy access to hand washing stations.



Frequently wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer if soap and water is not available.



Practice hand hygiene before and after any physical contact, contact with body fluids or shared surfaces and donning (putting on) and doffing (taking off) personal protective equipment (PPE).

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Wearing appropriate PPE helps prevent direct exposure to different viruses and bacteria, including the virus that causes COVID-19, by protecting against droplets exhaled by infected people. Sites should adopt universal mask protection (for staff and clients).



Clients: Medical mask at all times when at the site.



Screeners

Medical mask and eye protection.



Administration

Medical mask.

Staff Involved in Direct Care



Staff should be mask fitted for N-95 masks.



AGMP

N-95 mask, gown, gloves, eye protection. Other staff should keep 2m distance and wear a medical mask.



No AGMP

Medical mask, gloves, eye protection.

*AGMP: Aerosol Generating Medical Procedures

Staff Involved in Cleaning and Disinfecting



After an AGMP

Medical mask, gloves, gown, eye protection.



General

Medical mask, gloves, gown.

*AGMP: Aerosol Generating Medical Procedures

Cleaning and Disinfecting

Frequent cleaning of high touch surfaces (e.g. handles, doorknobs, tables, elevator buttons and electronics) helps to reduce virus transmission between people.

- Always clean and disinfect surfaces using Health Canada approved products. If not available, use a diluted bleach solution.
- Follow manufacturer's instructions when cleaning and disinfecting. Launder items (soft surfaces) or wipe off any visible dirt using soap and water (hard surfaces).

Responding to an Overdose

Always take the highest COVID-19 precautions when responding to an overdose.

AGMP



Staff providing care to clients should wear an N-95 mask, a gown, eye protection (goggles/face shield) and gloves.



All non-essential personnel should evacuate the room.

Non-AGMP



Staff should wear a medical mask, eye protection, gloves and goggles.

*AGMP: Aerosol Generating Medical Procedures.

Note: Nasal naloxone is not an AGMP procedure and evidence suggests that CPR face shields do not provide sufficient protection.