

## **Operating Guideline # 1107**

### **Pandemic PPE**

**June 23, 2020**



#### **PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this Operating Guideline (OG) is to describe what PPE is required and what PPE is not required for various firefighting duties during the health pandemic.

#### **RATIONALE:**

Firefighters are at risk of contracting communicable diseases from infectious persons. It is sometimes difficult to identify infectious persons as they may not display symptoms. Employees should be trained in the use of PPE and types of PPE available to them and which type is appropriate for the various duties they may be called upon to perform.

#### **GUIDELINE:**

1. All personnel shall wear full infection control PPE when they are responding to a patient on a medical call when the patient has screened positive. (see Appendix A)
2. Full infection control PPE includes gloves, glasses, N95 masks and gowns/bunker gear.
3. Surgical masks, as shown in Appendix A are appropriate as face coverings but not for response to medical calls where the patient has screened positive for COVID, see #1.
4. Surgical masks are the preferred mask to give to a patient to help reduce the transmission of airborne droplets.
5. Face Coverings such as surgical masks (non N95), tuber'z, and cloth masks should be worn when the 2 m rule for social distance can not be maintained, for instance in vehicles.
6. For all medical calls where the patient has not screened positive, a face covering shall be worn by every member, this can be a N95 mask, a surgical mask, a cloth mask or the tuber'z product PLUS nitrile gloves.
7. MLFD has provided the cloth mask and tuber'z to allow our members the comfort of working in close proximity while affording the appropriate protection

#### **RESPONSIBILITY:**

It is the responsibility of all firefighters to comply with the provisions of this Operating Guideline.

#### **REFERENCES:**

NFPA 1581 – Guideline for Infection Control Procedures  
Ontario Health and Safety Section 21 Guidance Note 4-14 Infection Control








# Operating Guideline # 1107

## Pandemic PPE

June 23, 2020



### APPENDIX A

DUTY	PPE REQUIRED	PICTURE
Medical Call w COVID screen positive	N95 mask, nitrile gloves, gown, and safety glasses	 
Medical Call w/o COVID	Face Covering N95, Cloth masks, surgical masks, or tuber'z PLUS nitrile gloves	    
Working closer than 2 m on the fireground & driving	Face Covering Cloth masks, surgical masks, or tuber'z	See Above
Working near an environment that is immediately dangerous to life and health, fire or Hazmat response	SCBA and full firefighting PPE, bunker gear, gloves, helmets, & boots.	