

# Guidance for use of Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) for community-based midwives

Nationwide there is increased demand for PPE as a result of COVID-19.

Our priority is to ensure we have sufficient stocks available for frontline health workers to ensure staff and patient safety in our hospitals, aged residential care facilities, general practices, and in the community.

Like all health professionals, midwives will face some challenging scenarios.

We know you will continue to put the care of the women/wāhine and their pēpē first. We want to ensure that we do all we can to assist you to also prioritise your own health.

The provision and use of Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) is a key element to keeping you and your mothers and their babies safe.

The Ministry of Health has developed a national framework to enable all DHBs to prioritise PPE to those who need it, and to guide the effective use of PPE.

Community-based organisations not usually provided with PPE by District Health Boards, ARE included in the Ministry of Health framework in relation to COVID-19. All health care providers will be provided with PPE for use as required and in accordance with Ministry of Health guidelines. **This includes midwives.**

## When is PPE required?

It is important we first understand when PPE is required. The Ministry of Health's criteria for prioritisation includes:

- Risk of being exposed to someone who has or potentially has COVID-19

- Length of exposure – more than 15 minutes at a distance less than 1 metre
- Type of exposure, for example, delivering close care to a confirmed or suspected COVID-19 case

For more detail, see the Ministry of Health's information on [COVID-19 case definition](#).

The Ministry of Health's Guidance for prioritising PPE can be found on its web page [COVID-19 - Resources for health professionals](#), and on Government's [Unite against COVID](#) webpage.

## How to use PPE

It is also important that health care practitioners and other health care providers use PPE appropriately as outlined in the guidelines:

- [Putting on PPE](#)

## Midwives and personal protection equipment (PPE)

Your health and the health of women and babies in your care are the priority. As Lead Maternity Carers (LMC) you will have a number of women you are caring for. It is important that you do not expose other women in your care. The objective must be to protect all women and babies as well as yourself.

The New Zealand College of Midwives (Canterbury/ West Coast Region) and the Canterbury District Health Board (CDHB) have agreed a process to manage the provision of PPE to community-based midwives.

## Advice and resources

The Ministry of Health COVID-19 web page provides guidance for use of PPE for a range of scenarios faced by health care practitioners: [Personal protective equipment for use in health care](#)

This page includes a number of useful resources such as an easy reference poster for community-based midwives: [PPE used by community-based midwives for prevention of COVID-19](#)

The Ministry of Health [COVID-19 web page](#) also has a link to a range of [Resources for health professionals](#) which has further advice specifically for midwives:

[Information for community-based for midwives](#) which in turn includes:

- [Information for community-based midwives](#)
- [Advice for community-based midwives caring for women in self-isolation after potential COVID-19 exposure](#)
- [Advice for community-based midwives caring for women with confirmed or suspected COVID-19](#)

There is also information for women: [Information for pregnant women and those who have recently given birth](#) which includes advice in relation to: [Breastfeeding advice](#)

COVID-19 has been found to transmit to babies post-partum but generally does not appear to cause severe disease as it does in adults, including pregnant women.



NEW ZEALAND COLLEGE OF MIDWIVES (INC)  
CANTERBURY/WEST COAST REGION

## Where do I get the PPE from?

Midwives will be issued with PPE to have on hand in their vehicles.

When you require further sets of PPE, please contact the Midwifery Resource Centre, by email in the first instance:

Email: [mrc.chch@gmail.com](mailto:mrc.chch@gmail.com)

Phone: 03 365 2789

The Midwifery Resource Centre will contact the CDHB's Logistics team.

You will need to provide the NHI number for each woman for whom PPE is, or was, required, and an indication of how many sets of PPE you think you'll need. While there are guidelines for provision of PPE, you can discuss these and your requirements with the Midwifery Resource Centre.

If you need more information about provision of PPE, please also contact the Midwifery Resource Centre.

### Information and resources:

Ministry of Health poster – [PPE used by community-based midwives for prevention of COVID-19](#)

Ministry of Health – [Personal protective equipment for use in healthcare](#)

Ministry of Health – [Information for pregnant women and those who have recently given birth](#)

Ministry of Health – [Information for community-based midwives](#)

Ministry of Health – [COVID-19 Resources for health professionals](#)

See also the infection prevention and control guidelines under [Resources for health professionals](#).

For the latest information check the Ministry of Health website [www.health.govt.nz/COVID-19](http://www.health.govt.nz/COVID-19)



West Coast  
- District Health Board -  
Te Poari Hauora a Rohe o Tai Poutini

Canterbury  
District Health Board  
Te Poari Hauora o Waitaha