

OSHA PPE Recommendations for Dentistry

Personal Protective Equipment

Dentistry workers must use proper PPE when exposed to patients. PPE differs for the care of well patient care during the COVID-19 pandemic versus PPE needed when providing emergency care to a patient with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 (See OSHA's PPE standards at [29 CFR 1910 Subpart I](#)).

OSHA recommends the following PPE for dentistry during the COVID-19 pandemic:

Well patients	
<i>Dental procedures not involving aerosol-generating procedures</i>	<i>Dental procedures that may or are known to generate aerosols</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Work clothing, such as scrubs, lab coat, and/or smock, or a gown ▪ Gloves ▪ Eye protection (e.g., goggles, face shield) ▪ Face mask (e.g., surgical mask) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Gloves ▪ Gown ▪ Eye protection (e.g., goggles, face shield) ▪ NIOSH-certified, disposable N95 filtering facepiece respirator or better*

Patients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19	
<i>Dental procedures not involving aerosol-generating procedures</i>	<i>Dental procedures that may or are known to generate aerosols</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Gloves ▪ Gown ▪ Eye protection (e.g., goggles, face shield) ▪ NIOSH-certified, disposable N95 filtering facepiece respirator or better* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Gloves ▪ Gown ▪ Eye protection (e.g., goggles, face shield) ▪ NIOSH-certified, disposable N95 filtering facepiece respirator or better*

**During extended procedures in which aerosols or other splashes/sprays of water, saliva, or other body fluids could cause moisture to collect in/on a filtering facepiece respirator, OSHA recommends using an R95, P95, or better filtering facepiece; elastomeric respirator with an appropriate cartridge; or powered air-purifying respirator (PAPR). Note that disposable N95 filtering facepiece respirators and certain cartridges for elastomeric respirators may be adversely affected by an increase in moisture and spray from certain work tasks.*

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Use respiratory protection as part of a comprehensive respiratory protection program that meets the requirements of OSHA's Respiratory Protection standard ([29 CFR 1910.134](#)) and includes medical exams, fit testing, and training.

When removing potentially contaminated PPE, such as an N95 respirator, do not touch the outside of the respirator without wearing gloves.

CDC has developed [strategies for optimizing the supply of PPE](#), including specifically for:

- [Gowns](#)
- [Eye protection](#)
- [Face masks](#)
- [N95 respirators](#)