

The [WHO confirmed that UK guidance is consistent with WHO recommendations](#) for protecting healthcare workers against COVID-19. The WHO said: *Based on the available evidence, including the recent publications mentioned above, WHO continues to recommend droplet and contact precautions for those people caring for COVID-19 patients. WHO continues to recommend airborne precautions for circumstances and settings in which aerosol generating procedures and support treatment are performed, according to risk assessment. These recommendations are consistent with other national and international guidelines, including those developed by the European Society of Intensive Care Medicine and Society of Critical Care Medicine and those currently used in Australia, Canada, and United Kingdom.*

The UK guidance has some marginal differences from WHO guidance, these are: the UK recommends FFP3 respirators for use during higher risk procedures however does state that FFP2 can be used if FFP3 are not available, following a rapid HSE review. Secondly WHO recommends full arm gowns when seeing any suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19. The UK guidance also recommends full arm gowns in high risk procedures and aprons for other procedures, which is consistent with the UK 'bare below the elbow' policy as part of our long-term strategy to reduce healthcare associated infections and effective hand hygiene. COVID-19 is not airborne, it is transmitted through droplets and surfaces We advise gowns for the highest risk procedures and areas where aerosol generating procedures that are likely to transmit respiratory viruses are likely to be performed. Health Protection Scotland have conducted and provided an evidence base for [Standard Infection Prevention and Control Precautions](#) and this forms the basis of this guidance. The advice therefore is bare below the elbows and you scrub your hands, your wrists and your forearms.