

Safety Precautions at a Glance

The following table provides a general overview of what precautions are needed depending on the level of risk in your workplace.

RISK ASSESSMENT FOR COVID-19	LOW RISK Workers who typically have no contact with people infected with COVID-19	MODERATE RISK Workers who may be exposed to infected people from time to time in relatively large, well ventilated workspaces	HIGH RISK Workers who may have contact with infected patients, or with infected people in small, poorly ventilated workspaces
HAND HYGIENE	Yes (washing with soap and water, using an alcohol-based hand rub, or using hand wipes that contain effective disinfectant)	Yes (washing with soap and water, using an alcohol-based hand rub, or using hand wipes that contain effective disinfectant)	Yes (washing with soap and water, using an alcohol-based hand rub, or using hand wipes that contain effective disinfectant)
DISPOSABLE GLOVES	Not required	Not required (unless handling contaminated objects on a regular basis)	Yes in some cases (for example, when working directly with COVID-19 patients)
APRONS, GOWNS, OR SIMILAR BODY PROTECTION	Not required	Not required	Yes in some cases (for example, when working directly with COVID-19 patients)
EYE PROTECTION - GOGGLES OR FACE SHIELD	Not required	Not required	Yes in some cases (for example, when working directly with COVID-19 patients)
AIRWAY PROTECTION - RESPIRATORS	Not required	Not required (unless likely to be exposed to coughing and sneezing)	Yes (minimum N95 respirator or equivalent)

There has been growing debate about the need for respirators or home-made masks in the workplace. The consensus appears to be that there is no need for these masks assuming that there is no active coughing sneezing in the workplace and workers maintain a 6 feet distancing. If these conditions cannot be met, it may be prudent to adopt the use of face coverings – primarily as they can prevent the release of droplets into the workplace.

