



COLLEGE OF DIETITIANS
OF ALBERTA

March 23, 2020

Use of Personal Protective Equipment in relation to COVID-19

The following is required of all Registered Dietitians (RDs) to minimize or prevent the spread of acquired infections, specifically in relation to COVID-19, in the health-care setting:

- RDs must follow all employers' point of care risk assessment policies and procedures prior to visiting patients face to face.
- RDs must perform hand hygiene and respiratory hygiene (coughing and sneezing) practices in compliance with their employers' policies and procedures prior to visiting patients.
- RDs must use personal protective equipment (gloves, gowns, masks, goggles/face shields) in all situations deemed required by their employer, and in compliance with employers' policies and procedures. RDs are discouraged from touching patient/clients unless deemed clinically required by the employer.
- Dietitians must use physical distancing practices (2 metres) in all face to face patient/client interactions, and in the work setting in general as per employer policies, procedures or guidelines.
- Dietitians must also continue to abide by self-isolation guidelines (14 days minimum) when they have traveled outside of the country, when they have or suspect they may have had exposure to the COVID-19 or any other flu-like virus, and/or are exhibiting signs and symptoms of exposure. Contact Health Link at 811 for information and direction.

*Personal Protective Equipment – May include gowns, gloves, masks, goggles and/or face shields that act as a physical barrier between the individual and the hazard/infectious agent/person.

Reference: <https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/assets/healthinfo/ipc/hi-ipc-emerging-issues-ncov.pdf>