

## **RESTRAINT PPE**

There may be circumstances that, for the time being, acute disturbance representing risks could result in the need for physical intervention to maintain the protection for others.

At this stage, there is limited experience of PPE that is effective for engaging with a patient who may be behaviourally disturbed, resistive or who requires physical intervention.

Infection control advice should be followed with regard to managing PPE following physical intervention with a high-risk patient. Amongst other procedures this may involve leaving work in different clothes to those worn in higher risk activities.

Preliminary tests of protective equipment shown to be viable in circumstances where resistance to direction and/or physical intervention is required and should be worn in all physical interventions (restraints).

### **Full Face Shields**

Face shields have proved viable in physical intervention (PI) scenarios without presenting significant difficulties other than a tendency for the wearer to experience mild discomfort due to raised temperature resulting from the face covering.

There can be issues with full face protection being dislodged during episodes of physical intervention which may require the availability of another person to replace headwear for those engaged in implementing holds.

### **Face masks**

Face masks have proved viable in physical intervention (PI) scenarios without presenting significant difficulties other than a tendency for the wearer to experience mild discomfort due to raised temperature resulting from the face covering.

## **BOTH SHOULD BE USED DURING ANY PHYSICAL INTERVENTION**

### **Aprons**

Indications are that aprons can provide hindrance to those engaged in physical intervention and become easily displaced, ripped off and thereafter providing a slip hazard. At this stage, significant caution should be given to the use of aprons.

### **Scrubs**

Scrubs have shown to be effective in providing some protection while not representing obstacles to PI.

### **Gloves**

Rubber gloves and elbow length gloves have proved effective during preliminary tests during episodes of PI.

Although gloves could represent an increased risk of pinching the skin for those subject to holds resulting from the increased grip that can be achieved from the glove over that that would normally be experienced by the naked hand. This should be a consideration within physical intervention procedures.