



*The Nova Scotia College of Nursing (NSCN) is the regulatory body for licensed practical nurses (LPNs), registered nurses (RNs) and nurse practitioners (NPs) in Nova Scotia. Our mandate is to protect the public by promoting the provision of safe, competent, ethical and compassionate nursing services by our registrants. The term nurse in this document refers to LPNs, RNs and NPs unless otherwise stated.*

## Contents

About These Guidelines .....	2
Minimizing the Transmission of COVID-19 and Immunizations .....	2
Core Principles.....	3
Practice Settings of Self-Employed Nurses .....	3
Obligations to Provide Care .....	3
Components of your Plan.....	4
Acknowledgment .....	4
1   COMMUNICATIONS PLAN .....	5
2   VIRTUAL SCREENING AND FOLLOW UP .....	5
3   CONTACT TRACING .....	6
4   SELF-ASSESSMENT .....	6
5   PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT .....	6
6   SUPPLY CHAIN .....	7
7   PUBLIC HEALTH MEASURES .....	8
8   CLIENT ASSESSMENTS.....	8
9   MANAGING SYMPTOMS DURING AN APPOINTMENT .....	9
10   PHYSICAL DISTANCING .....	10
11   CLEANING AND INFECTION CONTROL PRACTICES .....	10
12   ADDITIONAL RESOURCES .....	12
13   APPENDIX A: HAND HYGIENE.....	13
14   APPENDIX B: DONNING AND DOFFING PPE.....	14
15   READINESS CHECKLIST .....	15

Revised December 2021, December 2020, first published June 2020 as Self-Employed Nurses During COVID: Additional Guidelines

Copyright © Nova Scotia College of Nursing, Bedford Nova Scotia. Commercial or for-profit redistribution of this document in part or in whole is prohibited except with the written consent of NSCN. This document may be reproduced in part or in whole for personal or educational use without permission, provided that:

- Due diligence is exercised in ensuring the accuracy of the materials reproduced;
- NSCN is identified as the source; and
- The reproduction is not represented as an official version of the materials reproduced, nor as having been made in affiliation with, or with the endorsement of, NSCN

Our practice support tools are developed using current reference material. The source of this material is available upon request.



The mandate of the Nova Scotia College of Nursing (NSCN) is public protection. These additional guidelines are specifically for **self-employed nurses whose practice includes direct contact with clients**. These guidelines support self-employed nurses, so they continue to be prepared to deliver safe and competent nursing services in their self-employed practice. All health care providers in private practice, including self-employed nurses, must be compliant with the recommendations in this guideline, regardless of the nature of the services provided or number of clients on their roster.

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought focus on the importance of the safe delivery of health, social, community and commercial services in order to slow the spread of the virus. The Nova Scotia Chief Medical Officer of Health (CMOH), along with medical officers and government authorities worldwide, have based their public health orders on an ever-evolving base of knowledge and research relating to the unique properties and manifestations of COVID-19.

Strategies will evolve as the pandemic continues and it is anticipated that there could be changes to health practices. Check regularly with the [Public Health Agency of Canada](#) (PHAC), the [Government of Nova Scotia](#) and/or the Government of Canada websites to ensure you are complying with the most recent directives. The [COVID-19](#) page on the NSCN website is also a source of information.

## About These Guidelines

These guidelines were developed with guidance from Public Health and are based on core Public Health principles and current best evidence. They have been [approved for use by the Nova Scotia's Chief Medical Officer of Health](#). They do not replace the current [Self-Employment Practice Guidelines](#) and are intended to be used together. The information in this document may change over time as evidence and the epidemiological data around COVID-19 evolves.

## Minimizing the Transmission of COVID-19 and Immunizations

Until immunity levels are adequate in the general population, COVID-19 will be present. We must move to a new normal that balances the risks of transmission of COVID-19 with the benefits of providing health services.

Immunizations have a significant and positive impact on the health of our population and assist in minimizing transmission of COVID-19.

Nova Scotia's COVID-19 Immunization Plan is based on scientific evidence, expert advice and recommendations from the National Advisory Committee on Immunization. Widespread vaccination shortens the duration of disease outbreaks, maintains public safety, reduces the burden on the health care system and keeps health care providers safe to care for clients in need. For more information about NSCN's COVID-19 Vaccine Regulatory Update, [click here](#).

Nurses have a duty, as outlined in their respective [standards of practice](#) to provide clients with safe, competent, ethical, and compassionate care, including protecting them from the risk of infection. While NSCN does not require proof of vaccination as a licensure requirement, it recommends that all nurses, regardless of where they work, be vaccinated against COVID-19.

## Core Principles

To minimize the transmission of COVID-19, nurses in all contexts must adopt the following principles. These principles may overlap with some individual recommendations.

1. Maintain compliance with your [standards of practice](#) and [code of ethics](#).
2. Stay informed, be prepared and follow the measures or mandates as outlined by Nova Scotia's Chief Medical Officer of Health, Public Health, and/or [Health Orders under the Health Protection Act](#).
3. Follow recommendations from the [Government of Nova Scotia](#), [Government of Canada](#) and/or [Public Health Agency of Canada](#). As a regulated health professional, you are accountable to follow all civil orders that originate from any level of government.
4. Read all communication from NSCN.
5. Follow best practice recommendations from nursing organizations or nursing associations relevant to your individual self-employed practice.
6. Practice public health personal hygiene measures (e.g. practice hand hygiene, avoid touching face, ensure respiratory etiquette, disinfect frequently touched surfaces).
7. Increase environmental cleaning and ventilation of common workspaces, equipment and tools.
8. Stay home and away from others when symptomatic and follow public health advice.
9. Get vaccinated, NSCN recommends that all nurses, regardless of where they work, be vaccinated against COVID-19.

## Practice Settings of Self-Employed Nurses

The practice settings and services offered by self-employed nurses in Nova Scotia vary. Most self-employed nurses work alone, while others may have employees. Generally, self-employed nurses with direct client contact practice in clients' homes, a clinic or shared workspace (often owned by a third party) or in a facility via a contractual relationship as an independent contractor.

The variety of self-employed practice types and contexts means that not every recommendation will apply to every self-employed nurse. **However, self-employed nurses are expected to meet or exceed the requirements of all the recommendations that do apply to them.**

Nurses whose self-employed practice do not include direct contact with clients need only refer to the [Self-Employment Practice Guidelines](#). Nurses employed by organizations may receive additional COVID-19 guidance from their employer.

Self-employed nurses who employ others are accountable to ensure their staff are aware of and compliant with the recommendations in their plan.

## Obligations to Provide Care

Nurses have a duty, as outlined in their respective standards of practice, to provide clients with safe, competent, ethical and compassionate care. Nurses must not restrict in-person care to only those clients who have been vaccinated or have had a recent negative COVID-19 test result. In-person care can be provided safely to all patients by taking appropriate precautions, including screening patients and using necessary personal protective equipment (PPE). Nurses cannot require documented proof of vaccination from a client as a prerequisite for their services. However, it is reasonable for a nurse to request that clients report their vaccine status to maintain an accurate health record.

## Components of your Plan

Consider the following as part of your plan for your self-employed practice to balance the risks of transmission of COVID-19 with the benefits of providing health services. Specific recommendations for certain practice settings, such as a client's home, clinic or independent contractor, or self-employed nurses with employees or a team of staff will be identified as such.

1. [Communications Plan](#)
2. [Virtual Screening and Follow up](#)
3. [Contact Tracing](#)
4. [Self-Assessment](#)
5. [Personal Protective Equipment \(PPE\)](#)
6. [Supply Chain for PPE](#)
7. [Public Health Measures](#)
8. [Client Assessments](#)
9. [Managing Symptoms During an Appointment](#)
10. [Physical Distancing](#)
11. [Cleaning and Infection Control Practices](#)
12. [Resources](#)
13. [Appendix A: Hand Hygiene](#)
14. [Appendix B: Donning and Doffing PPE](#)
15. [Readiness Checklist](#)

## Acknowledgment

The Nova Scotia College of Nursing gratefully acknowledge the Nova Scotia College of Physiotherapists for their contribution to this document.

# 1 | COMMUNICATIONS PLAN

The goal of the communications plan is to ensure your clients are fully informed about COVID-19 related precautions before their scheduled appointment. Your communications plan must also consider your practice context (client's home, clinic or independent contractor).

## Recommendations to include in a Communications Plan

- The nature of the services you are providing, especially if services have been changed, discontinued or altered due to COVID-19.
- Any changes in your service delivery model, including the use of technology to virtually collect data, screen clients or provide follow up care virtually.
- The requirement of the client to self-assess for symptoms consistent with COVID-19 before their appointment.
- The promotion of individual and public health measures, such as physical distancing when required, frequent hand hygiene, avoid touching face and respiratory etiquette.
- When a mask is required and when it is not.
- For clients coming to a clinic or facility:
  - Alternative appointment booking or notifications, such as waiting in their car until called to come into the space or the use of text messaging.
  - Physical distancing in waiting areas.

# 2 | VIRTUAL SCREENING AND FOLLOW UP

Virtual screening enables you to focus the in-person time directly on performing an assessment or intervention. Virtual screening can take place via the telephone or other form of technology.

## Recommendations

- Before the scheduled appointment and upon arrival to the appointment screen all clients for; the presence of COVID-19 symptoms, travel outside the province in the past 14 days, exposure to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, or is required for any reason to be self-isolating.
- Use the [online 811 assessment](#) to screen clients.
- Minimize the amount of time needed for an in-person appointment or visit by collecting relevant data and information during the pre-visit virtual screening call.
- Inform clients of the public health measures that will be in effect during the appointment or visit. See below for more details.
- When and where appropriate, consider the use of technology for follow up care to limit the face-to-face contact or unnecessary travel by you or the client.

Travel restrictions will vary over time. When screening clients use the most current and up to date government or public health recommendations.

## 3 | CONTACT TRACING

Contact tracing is a process used to identify and monitor people who have had close contact with someone known to be infected with COVID-19.

### Recommendations

- Maintain a registry of names and appointment dates and times to facilitate Public Health contact tracing if required.

## 4 | SELF-ASSESSMENT

You must conduct self-assessments daily and as frequently as necessary, such as just before entering a client's home or your workspace. You should also encourage clients and others to conduct self-assessments before each appointment and validate their self-assessments upon arrival.

### Recommendations

- Self-monitor for symptoms of COVID-19.
- Self-refer to 811 to arrange for testing if symptomatic. Use the [online 811 assessment](#) for the most recent direction for testing.
- If tested, stay home and refrain from providing nursing services until negative COVID-19 testing is confirmed.
- Advise clients to cancel appointment if it is for a non-urgent care service, stay home and refer to 811 for testing if they are experiencing one or more symptoms compatible with COVID-19.
- If you provide self-employed nursing services in a clinic:
  - post accessible and easily understood signage to discourage clients or others from coming to the work area if they are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 or have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 in the past 14 days.
- If you employ others:
  - require staff to self-assess for symptoms of COVID-19.
  - keep them informed about Public Health advice applicable to your self-employed practice.
  - adjust absenteeism policies to enable staff to stay home when ill, in quarantine (self-isolation), or if they are taking care of children or someone who is ill.
  - ensure plans are in place for increased worker absences due to illness or isolation.
- If you provide your self-employed nursing services as an independent contractor:
  - follow all applicable policies when working within the organizational space.

## 5 | PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

Personal protective equipment (PPE) is an essential element in preventing the transmission of all disease-causing microorganisms, including COVID-19. If not used correctly, PPE will fail to prevent transmission and may facilitate the spread of the virus. One mask may be used for the entire workday or shift, unless it becomes wet, damaged or soiled.

Non-medical masks (NMM) or face coverings with two or three layers can be made at home from fabric. If you are making your own masks, consider creating a pocket for a filter. When worn properly, non-medical masks can reduce the risk of transmitting the virus in the same way that following cough and sneeze etiquette can protect others. Go to <https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/masks/#Choosing> for more information about non-medical masks.

Surgical or procedural masks provide greater protections and should be worn continuously during direct and indirect client interactions. N95 respirators are not required for any procedures in the community setting and should not be used in order to preserve supplies for appropriate settings.

## Recommendations

- Know how to appropriately don and doff a mask (See [Appendix B](#) for more details). Review the Nova Scotia donning/doffing mask poster and other resources in the Resource Section. If you employ others, ensure they review the resources and have an opportunity to ask questions and practice donning and doffing a mask.
- Know when a surgical mask is required for yourself, client and others (providing direct/indirect care, symptomatic clients, unable to maintain physical distancing) and when a non-medical mask will suffice.

## Surgical Masks

- Wear a mask whenever face-to-face (direct) or indirect contact with clients is required or adequate physical distancing from others cannot be maintained in the workspace.
- Identify alternate methods of communication when caring for a client who relies on lip reading. Maintain adequate physical distancing if the mask is temporarily removed.
- Surgical masks are required for everyone (client, staff, yourself) if anyone exhibits symptoms compatible with COVID-19 during an appointment (See [Managing Symptoms During an Appointment](#) for more details).

## Non-Medical/Surgical Masks

- Wear a non-medical mask in private indoor workplaces (like offices) in all common areas, places where there's interaction with the public, areas with poor ventilation and areas where people can't maintain a minimum physical distance of 2 metres (6 feet) from others
- Encourage clients and others to wear a non-medical mask while you are providing care for them. Provide instruction and guidance as needed.
- Keep informed about the appropriate use of non-medical masks by reviewing the [Public Health Agency of Canada](#) website.

## 6 | SUPPLY CHAIN

A supply chain represents the steps you will take to ensure you have an adequate supply of PPE for today and in possible subsequent waves of COVID-19.

## Recommendations

- Know how to assess, store and maintain an adequate supply of masks and other PPE.
- Have a plan to manage your self-employed practice in the event of future supply chain issues, including:
  - the use of non-medical masks where appropriate
  - voluntarily suspending your self-employed practice until you can re-establish your PPE supply, and;
  - a communications plan for clients including how they can access care if your practice is temporarily suspended.
- If you choose to use non-medical masks while experiencing PPE supply chain issues, follow Public Health recommendations for non-medical mask type, use, storage, laundering and maintenance that are current at the time. Monitor Public Health communications frequently as recommendations may change over time.

## 7 | PUBLIC HEALTH MEASURES

Nurses must follow and encourage clients to follow public health personal hygiene recommendations. [Hand hygiene](#) is recognized as the single most important infection prevention and control practice to break the chain of transmission of infectious diseases, including respiratory illness such as COVID-19.

### Recommendations

- Educate and remind clients and others of public health measures in effect. These include:
  - Cough or respiratory etiquette
    - Use a tissue or your elbow
    - Dispose of used tissues
    - Perform hand hygiene after
  - Hand hygiene (See [Appendix A](#) for more details).
  - Avoid touching the face as this is a significant component of hand hygiene.
- Post accessible and easily understood signage to remind clients and others to practice good hygiene.
- Provide accessible handwashing facilities or hand sanitizer dispensers at critical places within the workspace. Post or provide instructions of the proper procedure.
- If providing care in a client's home, bring a supply of hand sanitizer and surface disinfectant to each appointment.
- Where possible, minimize the need for external service providers, suppliers and others to enter the workspace. When they must be onsite, ensure they adhere to provincial COVID-19 health and safety requirements related to physical distancing and hygiene practices.

## 8 | CLIENT ASSESSMENTS

The client's [care plan](#) is developed and evaluated on the findings of an assessment. The need and importance of the client assessment has not changed because of COVID-19. However, how it is performed may look different, especially when using technology to support virtual screening.

### Recommendations

- Before the appointment, review any client data and information collected during the pre-visit screening so the in-person time can be minimized and your focus can be on the direct assessment or performing the required service. Ensure that the client is not required for any reason to be self-isolating.
- Validate the client's self-assessment before providing any services and re-book the appointment for any non-urgent health care concerns if the client arrives with any symptoms compatible with COVID-19.

## 9 | MANAGING SYMPTOMS DURING AN APPOINTMENT

Take action immediately if you, a client or others display symptoms compatible with COVID-19 during an appointment. Swift action can further prevent the transmission of the virus.

### Recommendations

#### **Nurse or Client Becomes Symptomatic – Overall Steps:**

- perform hand hygiene (See [Appendix A](#) for more details)
- inform the client if you have become symptomatic
- have the client perform hand hygiene and don a surgical mask
- discontinue appointment unless it's urgent. Otherwise move to an isolated space in the work area or home before continuing
- refer yourself and/or client to 811 to arrange for COVID-19 testing
- clean and disinfect your reusable equipment or tools (See [Cleaning and Infection Control Practices](#) for more details)
- leave the area as soon as possible
- if asked, prepare a contact tracing list for Public Health in the event of a positive test
- suspend any in-person appointments until COVID-19 testing is confirmed negative
- advise your other clients how and where they can get service while you are self-isolating

#### **Symptomatic Nurse**

- If you become symptomatic in a client's home, follow the overall steps and:
  - clean and disinfect any areas where you may have touched
  - advise client where they may receive ongoing service until after a negative testing has been confirmed.
- If you become symptomatic in a clinic setting, follow the overall steps and:
  - clean and disinfect any areas where you may have touched
  - advise others sharing the space and/or clinic owner
  - follow any applicable clinic policies
- If you become symptomatic while working in a facility as an independent contractor, follow the overall steps and:
  - clean and disinfect any areas where you may have touched
  - advise the management team and others in the facility
  - transfer the care to the client to another care provider if necessary
  - follow any applicable facility policies

## Symptomatic Client

- If your client become symptomatic while you are in their home, follow the overall steps and:
  - clean and disinfect any areas where you may have touched
  - advise client that further non-urgent service will be suspended until a negative test is confirmed
- If your client becomes symptomatic in a clinic setting, follow the overall steps and:
  - clean and disinfect any areas where you may have touched
  - advise others sharing the space and/or clinic owner
  - follow any applicable clinic policies
- If your client become symptomatic in a facility, follow the overall steps and:
  - clean and disinfect any areas where you may have touched
  - advise the management team and others in the facility
  - transfer the care to the client to another care provider if necessary
  - follow any applicable facility policies

## 10 | PHYSICAL DISTANCING

Follow current Public Health and Government of Nova Scotia recommendations regarding physical distancing (PD) guidelines.

## 11 | CLEANING AND INFECTION CONTROL PRACTICES

COVID-19 is spread through contact with respiratory droplets or contact with contaminated surfaces. Effective cleaning and disinfection are essential to avoid the possible spread of the virus because it survives for different periods of time on different surfaces. The frequency of cleaning and disinfection is dependent on the nature of use and contact of the surface or item in question. Not all cleaning products disinfect. Health Canada has created a guide on cleaning and disinfecting public spaces during COVID-19.

### Recommendations

- Use disinfectants with an 8-digit Drug Identification Number (DIN) that are approved for use by Health Canada:
  - During the pandemic, only Health Canada approved disinfectants with a virucidal claim are appropriate.
  - Follow the manufacturer's instructions for use, safety, contact time, storage and shelf life.
  - As an alternative, use a 1000 ppm bleach water solution by mixing 20 ml (4 teaspoons) of unscented, household bleach with 1000 ml (4 cups) of water per the Nova Scotia Department of Health and Wellness cleaning guidelines.
  - Ensure the surface remains wet with the bleach water solution for 1 minute.
  - Do not use vinegar, tea tree or Thieves' oil, or solutions not approved by Health Canada.
- Take appropriate precautions (such as gloves and masks) to protect yourself or your staff if you employ others when using cleaning and disinfecting products:
  - Consult the Manufacturer's Safety Data Sheets
  - Always follow directions.
- [Clean and disinfect](#) reusable client equipment between each use (See [Additional Resources](#)).
- Frequently assess and inspect reusable client equipment for visible soil or damage to the integrity that could make cleaning more difficult. Replace as needed.

- Consult relevant nursing association, organization or equipment manufacture for best practices in cleaning any equipment specific to your self-employed nursing practice.
- Identify high touch surfaces or objects specific to your self-employed practice (e.g. travel tote, or tray set-up) in addition to those listed below and assess them frequently, and clean and disinfect at least twice a day and as needed.
- Reduce the number of common surfaces that require touching (e.g. no-touch waste containers).
- Offer contactless payment methods and avoid the use of cash, if possible. Clean the payment machine after each use.
- Do not use upholstered cloth items where the cloth cannot be properly disinfected.
- If you provide self-employed nursing services in client homes:
  - Assess and regularly clean frequently touched surfaces
  - Clean and disinfect areas within your workspace before and after use (e.g., a table where you may set up a dressing tray).
- If you provide self-employed nursing services in a clinic setting:
  - remove non-essential items from workspace or waiting areas, including magazines, toys, and remote controls
  - clean and disinfect essential shared medical and non-medical equipment before and after use
  - clean and disinfect commonly touched areas, such as light switches, door handles, toilets, taps, handrails, counter tops, touch screens, mobile devices, keyboards, reception counters, seating areas including clinic room seats and objects, or machines used in therapies at least twice daily and whenever visibly soiled
  - remove cloth seating if it cannot be cleaned and disinfected
  - discourage the sharing of pens, phones, desks, offices and other tools or equipment, and if not possible, clean between use and at the end of the day
  - discontinue the use of client sign-in sheets and boards.
- If you employ others:
  - you must provide access to tissues, no-touch trash receptacles, hand soap, alcohol-based hand sanitizers approved by Health Canada with a DIN or NPN number, sanitizing wipes, disinfectants and disposable towels.

## 12 | ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

The following resources may be helpful as you develop a plan for your self-employed nursing practice.

<b>NOVA SCOTIA COLLEGE OF NURSING (NSCN)</b>
<a href="#">Self-Employment Practice Guidelines</a>
<a href="#">Practice Support Tools</a>
<a href="#">COVID-19 Information for Public, Nurses and Employers</a>
<a href="#">Nursing Care Plan Guidelines</a>
<a href="#">Telenursing and Providing Care Virtually by Technology</a>
<b>CANADIAN NURSES ASSOCIATION</b>
<a href="#">Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)</a>
<b>GENERAL</b>
<a href="#">Nova Scotia's Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Disease Health System Protocol</a>
<a href="#">Canada's Centre for Digital and Media Literacy</a>
<b>SCREENING</b>
<a href="#">Find Out If You Need A COVID-19 Test (Nova Scotia Government)</a>
<b>HAND HYGIENE</b>
<a href="#">Authorized list of hard-surface disinfectants and hand sanitizers (Health Canada)</a>
<a href="#">How to Hand Wash (Nova Scotia Coronavirus Resources)</a>
<a href="#">Coronavirus (COVID-19): Protect Yourself and Others</a>
<b>ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANING AND DISINFECTION</b>
<a href="#">Coronavirus (COVID-19): Protect Yourself and Others</a>
<a href="#">Authorized list of hard-surface disinfectants and hand sanitizers (Health Canada)</a>
<a href="#">COVID-19 Public Health Recommendations for Environmental Cleaning of Public Facilities (Health Canada)</a>
<b>PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT</b>
<a href="#">Alberta Health Services: Personal Protective Equipment (PPE): FAQs</a>
<a href="#">Nova Scotia Donning/Doffing Mask Poster</a>
<a href="#">Alberta Health Services: For Healthcare Workers: How to Wear a Mask</a>
<a href="#">NSHA video – The Right PPE, the Right Time</a>
<a href="#">Use of non-medical masks (Public Health Agency of Canada)</a>
<a href="#">Healthcare Worker Masking Guidelines during COVID-19 Pandemic: Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)</a>
<b>BUSINESS OWNERS</b>
<a href="#">COVID-19 information: Workplace Guidance for Business Owners</a>

## 13 | APPENDIX A: HAND HYGIENE

A significant component of hand hygiene is not touching your face. Nurses, clients and others should be encouraged to avoid touching their face after performing hand hygiene.

### Recommendations

#### Soap and Water

- Wash hands with soap and water for 20-30 seconds and dry with single use cloth or paper towels.
- Use soap and water, rather than hand sanitizer, when hands are visibly soiled.
- Single use cloth towels for hand hygiene must be laundered in hot water (above 60°C) with regular laundry soap and fully dried before being used again.

#### Hand Sanitizer

- Use approved hand sanitizer for 20-30 seconds when hands are not visibly soiled. Hand sanitizer must be approved by Health Canada (DIN or NPN number). [The list of approved products can be found at here.](#)

#### Performing Hand Hygiene

- Nurses and others if they employ them must perform hand hygiene:
  - upon arrival to the appointment
  - before contact with each client
  - before performing procedure or intervention
  - before handling any clean equipment
  - after body fluid exposure or risk of body fluid exposure
  - after contact with each client
  - after contact with a client 's surroundings or belongings
  - before donning PPE
  - after donning PPE
  - after doffing PPE
  - after cleaning any client or reusable equipment or contaminated surfaces
  - before and after charting, using a computer, telephone or other shared piece of equipment
  - before and after a financial transaction
  - any time they are unsure of the integrity of their hand hygiene
- Clients should perform hand hygiene:
  - upon arrival to the appointment
  - upon arrival to the treatment area if there has been a delay after arrival and a treatment area is part of your process
  - before and after touching any equipment
  - before and after a financial transaction
  - any time they are unsure of the integrity of their hand hygiene
  - upon departure

#### Laundry

If your self-employed practice involves handling clean or soiled laundry:

- Use gloves to handle soiled laundry.
- Perform hand hygiene before handling clean laundry.
- Avoid cross contamination by holding clean laundry away from body as well as treat linens that have been in contact with the floor as soiled.

## 14 | APPENDIX B: DONNING AND DOFFING PPE

### Recommendations

#### **Donning a Mask**

1. Perform hand hygiene
2. Open mask fully to cover from nose to below chin
3. Put on mask
4. Secure ties to head (top first) or elastic loops behind ears
5. Mold the flexible band to the bridge of nose (if applicable)
6. Ensure snug fit to face and below chin with no gaping or venting
7. Perform hand hygiene.

#### **Doffing a Mask: Do not touch the front of the mask!**

1. Perform hand hygiene
2. Carefully remove mask by bending forward slightly, touching only the ties or elastic loops. Undo the bottom tie first then undo the top tie
3. Discard the mask in the garbage (if required)
4. Perform hand hygiene

# 15 | READINESS CHECKLIST

This checklist does not represent all the individual recommendations. However, it is designed to provide you with an overview of key processes to consider for your self- employed nursing practice.

	ITEM	YES	NO	N/A	NOTES
<b>COMMUNICATIONS PLAN</b>	Communications plan is developed and maintained				
	Alternative booking or appointment notifications				
<b>VIRTUAL FOLLOW-UP CARE</b>	Pre-screen clients by phone or technology				
	Follow up with clients by phone or technology				
<b>CONTACT</b>	Contact tracing process ready				
<b>SELF-ASSESSMENT</b>	Self-assessment process (811 screening ) for nurse, client, staff, others				
	Signage or a way to communicate to clients the need for self-assessment before appointment				
	Process to advise clients when you can't see them (due to self-isolation)				
	Flexible cancellation policies when clients are self-isolating				

	ITEM	YES	NO	N/A	NOTES
<b>PPE AND SUPPLY CHAIN</b>	Adequate PPE supply				
	Able to don and doff (you and staff)				
	Able to teach clients to don and doff				
	Established supply chain for PPE				
<b>PUBLIC HEALTH MEASURES</b>	Capacity for hand hygiene				
	Signage posted or able to teach others				
<b>ASSESS CLIENT &amp; MANAGING SYMPTOMS DURING APPOINTMENT</b>	Process to validate client self-assessment upon arrival				
	Process to address if you, a client or your staff become symptomatic during an appointment				
	Signage of information about public health measures in effect				
	You have adequate hand hygiene supplies in mobile kit				
<b>PHYSICAL DISTANCING</b>	Processes to facilitate PD in your practice setting as required				

