

## Personal protective equipment in connection with the corona crisis

The term personal protective equipment (PPE) refers to any piece of equipment or appliance (including all types of supplements, accessories) intended to be worn or held by workers in order to subsequently protect them from potential hazards that could threaten their health or safety at work.

*E.g. hand protection (protective gloves against chemical, thermal and biological risks, etc.), respiratory protection (against dust, gas and vapour, etc.), hearing protection (earmuffs, earplugs, etc.), eye and face protection (against projected particles, chemical products, radiation, etc.), and protective clothing (against cold/heat, chemical products, etc.).*

It is important that the user should use the PPE correctly. Only appropriate, undamaged, sound and consistently worn PPE provide adequate protection to the individual. Other important points of attention include adequate personal hygiene, and infection prevention. PPE is for personal use and should therefore not be passed on to another person.

*Stricter measures apply to "medical personal protective equipment" during the corona crisis. These are usually internally notified in specific procedures within the organisation (hospital, care facility, etc.).*

Personal protective equipment	Points for attention
General	Do not touch your face, mouth, nose or eyes while putting on or taking off personal protective equipment until you have carefully washed or disinfected your hands. Consult the hand hygiene infographics.
Gloves	Gloves protect the hands of your employees against chemical, thermal, and mechanical risks, but also help to prevent the spread of the corona virus. Care must be taken to avoid contamination when taking off the glove. Refer to the instruction card.
Mouth mask	A mouth mask must closely fit on the face of the wearer. When using a tight-fitting mask, the skin should be clean-shaven at the edges of the mask. Make sure the nose clip fits snugly on the nose. Please refer to the relevant video when putting on and taking off the mouth mask. The same mouth mask cannot be used continuously. The duration of use depends on the applicable conditions. Store the mouth mask in a lockable bag with name indication. Do not use a dirty or worn mouth mask, remove it immediately.
Sequence for different PPE	Putting them on: First mouth mask, then apron, then gloves, then goggles. Taking them off: First remove the gloves, then perform hand hygiene, then take off the apron, then the goggles, then the mouth mask, and then perform hand hygiene once again.
Cleaning and storage	Ensure proper separation between reusable and non-reusable PPE. Ensure that reusable PPE are properly cleaned. Provide a clear inlet and outlet stream of cleaned material/ material to be cleaned. Ensure that cleaned PPE can be stored in a well-protected manner. Ensure that non-reusable PPE are quickly and adequately removed from the work floor. Carefully clean and store used personal protective equipment (hard hats, goggles, etc.) by third parties (clients, visitors, etc.) after use.

### Relevant sites on corona:

[www.mensura.be/nl/corona](http://www.mensura.be/nl/corona)  
[www.info-coronavirus.be/nl/](http://www.info-coronavirus.be/nl/)

*This document was prepared on 20 April 2020 on the basis of the measures in force on that date.*

*It contains general cross-sectoral measures, the applicability of which needs to be assessed according to the company's own situation.*