



WCPT launches advocacy campaign in support of access to PPE

Physiotherapists have a critical role to play in maintaining the health and wellbeing of individuals and communities around the world during the coronavirus pandemic.

But many physiotherapists, like their colleagues in other healthcare roles, are being placed in unacceptable risk because they are not being provided with the correct personal protective equipment they need to do their jobs.

To help address this WCPT is launching a #PPE4PT campaign pack, with materials in English, French, and Spanish:

- factsheets about airborne protection, droplet protection and recommendations for physiotherapists
- videos with subtitles
- advocacy toolkit
- letter addressed to government health ministers for use by WCPT member organisations

These can all be used to support physiotherapists in different countries and raise the profile of physiotherapists and their role in the response to COVID-19.

Access the campaign materials: [www.wcpt.org/covid19/campaigns/ppe](http://www.wcpt.org/covid19/campaigns/ppe)

Airborne protection when treating people with COVID-19

COVID-19 can survive for long periods on some surfaces and in fine aerosols that are sometimes produced during advanced medical procedures. Physiotherapists must consider the risks and benefits of carrying out aerosol generating procedures, and take the appropriate precautions. Airborne protection should be used during respiratory physiotherapy interventions.

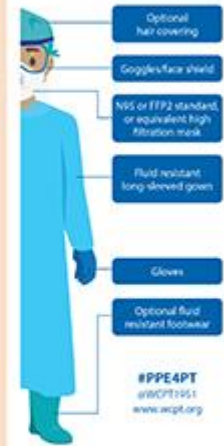
Aerosol generating procedures include:

- Cough generating procedures (eg coughing and huffing during treatment)
- Positioning/gravity assisted drainage techniques and manual techniques (eg expiratory vibrations, percussion, manual assisted cough) that may trigger a cough and the expectoration of sputum
- Use of positive pressure breathing devices (eg IPPV), mechanical insufflation-exsufflation (MIE) devices, intra/extra pulmonary high frequency oscillation devices (eg The Vest, MetaNet, Percussionaire)
- PEP and oscillating PEP devices
- Bubble PEP
- Nasopharyngeal or oropharyngeal suctioning
- Manual hyperinflation (MHI)
- Open suction
- Saline instillation via an open circuit/ endotracheal tube
- Inspiratory muscle training, particularly if used with people who are ventilated and disconnection from a breathing circuit is required
- Sputum inductions
- Any mobilisation or therapy that may result in coughing and expectoration of mucus.

Aerosol generating procedures should be carried out in a negative pressure room or in a single room with the door closed.

If a person with COVID-19 is being treated outside an isolation room, make sure they are wearing a surgical mask.

For airborne protection:



#PPE4PT @WCPT1951 www.wcpt.org



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#PPE4PT



The [COVIDPhysio Registry](https://www.wcpt.org/covid19/registry) is a register of physiotherapy-related work in progress in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

It includes projects such as guidelines, policy statements, campaigns, online continuing professional development, research, new education delivery and assessment methods, and the translation of material, providing a hub to support opportunities for collaboration and to avoid duplication of effort.

We urge all those who are involved in COVID-19 projects to log their project on the registry as it will be a valuable resource for the global physiotherapy community.

Entries can be made using the online form and a record of projects and activities will be updated and published frequently.

Access the CovidPhysio Registry: [www.wcpt.org/covid19/registry](https://www.wcpt.org/covid19/registry)

## COVID-19 information hub

WCPT has created a global information hub on its website with information and resources about COVID-19 relevant to the physiotherapy profession.

Resources have been collated from reputable sources and organised into categories including:

- [practice based resources](#)
- [education based resources](#)
- [health and wellbeing of physiotherapists for the general public](#)
- [WCPT member organisations' resources](#)
- [World Health Organization](#)
- [other organisations](#)

Access the information hub: [www.wcpt.org/covid19](https://www.wcpt.org/covid19)



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