

Helping prevent facial skin damage beneath personal protective equipment

Always follow the [guidelines](#) for donning and doffing.

It is recommended that you keep your skin clean and well hydrated/moisturised – apply creams at least 30 minutes before applying PPE.

Consider use of a barrier skin wipe/skin protectant (Such as Cavilon) if you are likely to be wearing PPE for extended periods. This will not protect your skin from over-tightening but may protect it from increased moisture.



Check the barrier product does not build up residue under the mask. Regularly inspect your skin for signs of redness/soreness.



Stay well hydrated throughout the day.



Caution: Skin protectants and emollients with white soft paraffin are flammable. You are advised not to smoke with them present on your skin.

Managing damaged skin

If a break occurs in the skin on your face:

- Inform your line manager and complete an incident report
 - Consider the use of an alternative to the mask, such as a hood
 - Consider the use of a tapered silicone foam or a thin hydrocolloid dressing to protect your skin.



- Make sure any dressings do not get in the way of your mask fitting snugly



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- Remember to remove the dressing each time as part of the doffing process.