

FACTORS AFFECTING PPE USE IN LTC

Interviews with LTC healthcare workers (HCWs; N= 7) were conducted in 2022 to find factors impacting PPE use



PPE AVAILABILITY AND QUALITY

HCWs require PPE to be available and for PPE to be good quality. HCWs felt:

- Having a consistent supply of high-quality PPE improved use
- PPE availability differed between different facilities

KNOWING HOW TO USE PPE

HCWs need PPE knowledge to use it. HCWs felt:

- Training was available for some, while not for others
- Lack of training led to improper PPE use
- Clear communication about PPE guideline changes impacted its use



FAMILIAL OBLIGATION

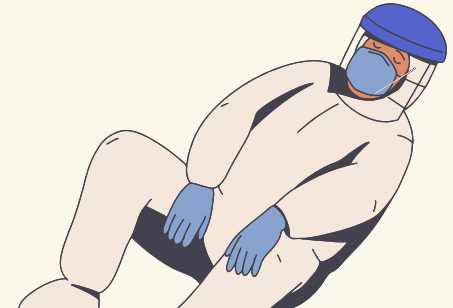
HCWs' responsibilities to their families influenced PPE use. HCWs felt:

- Strong desire to protect their loved ones
- When risk of infection was higher, HCWs used PPE better

CONVENIENCE AND COMFORT

Convenience and comfort during a HCWs daily duties affected PPE use. HCWs felt that

- PPE was easy to use, but was uncomfortable and too time consuming to use
- When risk of infection was lower, HCWs felt PPE was not always needed



PROFESSIONAL DUTY

PPE use affected HCWs perceptions of what makes a good care provider. HCWs felt:

- They prioritized resident safety
- PPE is part of their professional role
- PPE gives safety while working
- PPE interfered with resident care
- Fear of frightening residents with PPE use
- LTC facilities were understaffed
- Not rewarded for PPE use
- Stress and anxiety about PPE

SOCIAL INFLUENCES AND IDENTITY

People surrounding HCWs influenced PPE use.

HCWs' PPE use was influenced by:

- Coworkers
- Residents and their families for some HCWs, but not for others
- Direct feedback
- Audits
- PPE champions

