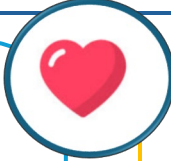




Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Safety Huddle



Why is PPE Important?

[Selection and Use of PPE WHS](#)

- PPE is used to prevent the spread of germs from both patient-to-patient and from patient-to-health care provider.
- PPE should be used when there is risk of exposure to body fluids.
- PPE should be readily available for quick and easy access at the point of care.
- **ALWAYS** use the [Point of Care Risk Assessment](#) to determine the PPE required for the patient interaction.

Gloves [Non-Sterile Exam Glove Selection Guide](#)

Wearing gloves can help stop the spread of germs, but hand hygiene is still required. Clean your hands before putting on gloves and after taking them off. Gloves are not a substitute for hand hygiene and must be discarded after a single use.

Q: If gloves act as a barrier to blood and bodily fluid exposure, why do I need to complete hand hygiene after removing them?

A: Even when gloves look intact, germs can get through small holes or get onto your hands when gloves are removed, so cleaning your hands afterward is essential.



Masks [Guidelines for Medical Face Masks](#)

Wear a medical mask to cover your nose and mouth when there is a chance your face or eyes could be sprayed or splashed with blood or bodily fluids.

Do not wear the same medical mask between different patients or patient care areas.



Medical masks and N95 respirators are single use only and must not be reused.



An N95 or respirator is required for:

- Airborne Additional Precautions
- Droplet and Contact Precautions when aerosol-generating medical procedures (AGMPs) are performed
- When indicated by a point-of-care risk assessment (PCRA)
- N95s and other respirators require **annual fit testing** to make sure they seal properly and provide protection.

Gowns [Gown Selection Guide](#)

Wear an appropriate long sleeve gown to protect uncovered skin and prevent soiling of clothing during activities that may involve contact with body fluids.

- When donning gown ensure to cover torso, secure thumb loops if applicable, and fasten ties at the back of neck and waist.
- Do not wear a gown outside a patient room or bed space.
- Gowns are single use, and the same gown should not be worn between patients or between patient environments.
- Remove gown promptly after use, dispose of in appropriate receptacle.
If gown becomes soiled during care, remove as soon as possible, perform hand hygiene, and don a new gown.

Discussion

1. When removing PPE, when should hand hygiene be performed?
2. Can you give an example of improper wearing of a medical mask?

Eye Protection [Eye and Facial Protection Selection Fit Tool](#)

- Cover front and sides of face securely (does not slide when bending).
- Remove and discard disposable eye protection.
- Re-usable eye protection requires cleaning and disinfecting after each use.
- Regular glasses do not provide adequate protection from droplets or splashes.



Interior Health

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For more resources visit the IPAC webpage [Additional Precautions Infection Prevention and Control IH](#) Tab and Occupational Health Resource Page.