

Personal Protective Equipment and Emergency Service Workers

Personal protective equipment (PPE) includes:

- Eye protection
- Gloves
- Gowns
- Masks/respirators

PPE must be worn whenever there is risk of coming into contact with non-intact skin, mucous membrane, or body fluids.

Be prepared for potential exposure by wearing the following PPE:

Gowns:

- Use a long-sleeved gown if contamination of uniform or clothing is likely.

Gloves:

- Use when there is a risk of hand contact with blood or body fluids, non-intact skin, or contaminated surfaces or objects.
- Use non-latex and powder-free gloves to protect users and patients against possible allergic reactions.
- Wearing gloves is not a substitute for hand hygiene.
- Perform hand hygiene after removing gloves. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer or wash hands with soap and water.

Masks and Eye Protection/Face Shields:

- Use to protect eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Use during procedures and care activities likely to generate splashes/sprays of blood or body fluids.

Transport of Patients:

- Gown, gloves, and mask should be worn by emergency services workers when transporting patients who are experiencing vomiting and diarrhea.
- Patients with respiratory symptoms (cough, sneeze) should wear a surgical mask during transport. If the patient is not able to wear a mask, then a gown, mask, eye protection, and gloves should be worn by the transporting emergency services worker.

Applying and Removing PPE

It is important to apply and remove PPE in the following order to avoid contaminating yourself.

Put PPE on in this order:

- Hand Hygiene > Gown > Mask > Eye Protection > Gloves

Remove PPE in this order:

- Gloves > Gown > Hand Hygiene > Eye Protection > Mask > Hand Hygiene

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