

Personal Protective Equipment Requirements for Suspect/Confirmed Ebola Virus Disease

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Understanding PPE Requirements

When treating a patient with suspect or confirmed Ebola Virus Disease, there are different PPE requirements based on the types of activities you are performing. The requirements and reasoning are identified in this document.

- **Wet PPE** – used when caring for a suspect or confirmed Ebola case.
- **Buddy PPE** – used by those assisting HCWs in the donning and doffing of their PPE.

Changes to Regular PPE Donning and Doffing

Please make note of these important differences with PPE donning and doffing for suspect or confirmed Ebola Virus Disease patients compared to regular process.

PPE Buddy

- A PPE Buddy is a staff member who will be present to observe and assist with PPE donning and doffing.
 - The Buddy remains on the clean side of the donning and doffing area (see section below) while observing and helping with PPE donning and doffing.
- Having a PPE Buddy will ensure the correct doffing of PPE, a vital step in minimizing the risk of self contamination.
- A PPE Buddy will:
 - Wear PPE as required for the tasks they are performing.
 - At a minimum, gloves must be changed between doffing of different health care workers (HCWs).
 - Full PPE must be changed when it becomes contaminated.
 - Assist with and observe for adherence to the correct steps for donning and doffing.
 - Pass items to the HCW when needed.
 - Communicate frequently with HCW and check in with HCW regarding how they are feeling in their PPE.
 - Other tasks as needed (some tasks may occur in the contaminated side of the donning and doffing area):
 - Disinfect doffing chair
 - Pick up waste from floor of donning and doffing area
 - Wipe down contaminated side of donning and doffing area
 - Seal biohazard containers in the PPE donning and doffing area
 - Disinfect biohazard containers in the PPE donning and doffing area
- If the Buddy performs any tasks on the contaminated side of the donning and doffing area, they must start their doffing sequence on this side and only move to the clean side when indicated in the process.

Full details of the Buddy PPE requirements and donning and doffing sequences are included later in this document.

Donning and Doffing Areas

- Donning and doffing areas will be identified at each site.
- A “contaminated zone” will be identified within the doffing area based on the room location and space configuration.

Disposal of PPE

- Dispose of all PPE in the proper biohazard container as selected by ES on the contaminated side. PPE removed on the clean side of the donning and doffing area will be discarded in the biohazard container on the clean side.
- As each item is removed, fold the contaminated surfaces inward, handle gently and drop carefully into the biohazard container.
- Ensure the biohazard container is located within reach of the HCW and the Buddy.

HCW Attire

- All HCWs, including the PPE Buddy, will wear hospital supplied scrubs under the PPE.
 - Scrubs that are not visibly soiled after PPE removal will be laundered through hospital laundry services.
 - Visibly soiled or contaminated scrubs will be discarded in biohazard container.
- All staff must also wear clean, sturdy, fully-enclosed footwear.

Fatigue risks when wearing PPE

Wearing the PPE described in this document will result in increased heat stress and HCWs can expect to perspire considerably after several minutes of working in this equipment.

Those wearing PPE while caring for patients will require more break time (both in frequency and duration) in order to allow for adequate rest and hydration.

Caring for suspect or confirmed Ebola patients while wearing the necessary PPE, and diligently adhering to the PPE doffing procedures, requires consistent concentration and careful attention to detail. Excessive fatigue can impair concentration, which can increase the risk of contamination.

Fatigue should be taken into consideration when determining appropriate staffing levels for Ebola patient care teams. HCWs should identify when they are becoming fatigued or overheated while wearing the PPE and indicate to the Buddy that they will be exiting the room. The Buddy will require sufficient notice to don required PPE prior to assisting the HCW.

PPE Sequencing for “Wet” Patient (Suspect or confirmed Ebola Virus Disease)

Donning Sequence for Health Care Worker with Fluid Resistant Gown

PPE Buddy performs hand hygiene prior to assisting **HCW** with donning. **Buddy** is not required to wear PPE.

HCW puts on PPE in this order on the clean side. See the [poster](#) for details.

1. Preparation
2. Hand hygiene
3. Leg covers
4. Hand hygiene
5. Inner gloves (surgical)
6. Fluid impervious gown
7. Apron
8. Mask or N95 respirator
9. Eye protection
10. Bouffant head cover
11. Surgeon's hoods:
 - a. Head cover
 - b. Neck cover
12. Face shield
13. Outer gloves
14. Inspection

Doffing Sequence for Health Care Worker with Fluid Resistant Gown

The **PPE Buddy**, standing on the clean side and wearing **Buddy** PPE, assists the **HCW** with doffing.

Remove **HCW** PPE in this order, with **HCW** starting on the contaminated side. See [poster](#) for details.

1. Remove visible soil from PPE
2. Outer gloves
3. Surgeon's hood - Neck cover
4. Apron
5. Face shield
6. Surgeon's hood - Head cover
7. Gown
8. Leg covers
9. Bouffant head cover
10. Eye protection
11. Mask or N95 respirator
12. Hand hygiene

Donning Sequence for Health Care Worker with Coveralls

Put on PPE in this order on the clean side. See the [poster](#) for details.

1. Preparation
2. Hand hygiene
3. Coveralls – to shoulders
4. Shoe covers
5. Hand hygiene
6. Inner gloves (surgical)
7. Mask or N95 respirator
8. Eye protection
9. Bouffant head cover
10. Coveralls – hood and zipper seal
11. Apron
12. Surgeon's hood
13. Face shield
14. Outer gloves
15. Inspection

Doffing Sequence for Health Care Worker with Coveralls

The **PPE Buddy**, standing on the clean side and wearing **Buddy** PPE, assists the **HCW** with doffing.

Remove **HCW** PPE in this order, with **HCW** starting on the contaminated side. See [poster](#) for details.

1. Remove visible soil from PPE
2. Outer gloves
3. Apron
4. Face shield
5. Surgeon's hood
6. **Buddy's** gloves
7. Coveralls
8. Gloves
9. Bouffant head cover
10. Eye protection
11. Mask or N95 respirator
12. Hand hygiene

PPE Sequencing for PPE Buddy

Donning Sequence for PPE Buddy

Put on PPE in this order the on the clean side. See [poster](#) for details.

1. Preparation
2. Hand hygiene
3. Shoe covers
4. Hand hygiene
5. Fluid impervious gown
6. Mask
7. Bouffant head cover
8. Face shield
9. Gloves
10. Ready to assist

Doffing Sequence for PPE Buddy

Remove PPE in this order. See [poster](#) for details.

If the Buddy did any tasks on the contaminated side, doffing **must** start on the contaminated side.

1. Remove visible soil from PPE
2. Gloves
3. Hand hygiene
4. Gown
5. Hand hygiene
6. Face shield
7. Hand hygiene
8. Shoe covers
9. Hand hygiene
10. Bouffant head cover
11. Mask
12. Hand hygiene