

Proper Glove Use as part of Personal Protective Equipment

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Wearing gloves does not replace the need to perform proper hand hygiene. Hand hygiene must be performed both before and after wearing gloves.

Why wear gloves?

- reduce soiling of healthcare workers hands with blood, body fluids.
- reduce the risk of spreading germs to patients, the environment, or healthcare workers.

When should I wear gloves?

- before contact or potential contact with blood, body fluids, mucous membranes or non-intact skin.
- before contact with equipment or environment soiled with blood, body fluids.

When should I NOT wear gloves?

When there is no expected contact with mucous membranes, non-intact skin and when there is no assessed risk ([PCRA](#)) of exposure to blood and body fluids.

Examples include:

- taking blood pressure, temperature, or pulse
- bathing, dressing or feeding the patient (unless there is contact with blood or body fluids)
- phoning, charting, giving oral medications, replacing linens or assisting a patient with ambulation



Important Points:

- Hand hygiene must be performed before taking gloves from their container.
- **Hand hygiene** must be performed after glove removal since hands are considered contaminated even if gloves have been worn.
 - Micro-tears can be present in gloves.
- **Change** gloves and perform hand hygiene between each patient.
- **Change** gloves and perform hand hygiene between procedures on the same patient.
- **Do not double glove for routine care.**
- Do not wash gloves or use alcohol based hand rub on them.



Adapted from: AHS Central Zone Glove Fact Sheet July 2012

For more information, contact Infection Prevention and Control
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