

Gloves

in Community-based Services

Gloves are the most commonly used personal protective equipment (PPE) in healthcare settings. They reduce soiling of healthcare provider hands and prevent transmission of microorganisms between healthcare providers and clients. Gloves should be worn when there is a risk of coming in contact with blood, body fluids, contaminated items or other sources of infectious agents.

Procedure gloves are clean, non-sterile, and single-use disposable.

Wear procedure gloves when:

- performing procedures or tasks involving direct contact with non-intact skin, mucus membranes; (e.g., oral motor assessment, pelvic exam, tracheotomy care or suctioning) or blood and body fluids (e.g., blood, saliva, urine or stool);
- handling items visibly soiled with blood or body fluids;
- performing blood collection procedures (e.g., venipuncture, heel/finger poke or arterial blood gases).



Sterile gloves are germ-free and single-use disposable.

Wear sterile gloves when:

- inserting an indwelling catheter;
- performing invasive procedures;
- contacting sterile body sites.

Important considerations when using gloves

- Discard if integrity of glove becomes compromised.
- Change between each client and between procedures on the same client.
- Do not wash single-use gloves.
- Select gloves that fit snugly.
- Perform hand hygiene before accessing gloves.
- Inspect gloves for integrity and don just before a client-care task.
- Hand hygiene must be performed after removing gloves; gloves are not a perfect barrier due to defects such as microscopic tears and holes.



Wearing gloves does not replace hand hygiene. Perform hand hygiene before donning and after doffing gloves.

For additional information, refer to the following resources:

[AHS Glove Fact Sheet](#)

[AHS Best Practice Recommendation on Selection and Use of Gloves for Obstetrical and Gynecological Procedures](#)

[AHS Surgical Aseptic Technique and Sterile Field: Guideline for asepsis for invasive surgical procedures conducted in Community-based Health Care Settings](#)