

Standard Operating Procedure

Personal Protective Equipment

Document #: MDR.3.3

Initial effective date: October

2017 Last updated: April 2023

Next review: April 2026

OBJECTIVES

To safeguard the health of Medical Device Reprocessing Area staff and the integrity of all reusable medical devices.

APPLICABILITY

Compliance with this document is required by all Alberta Health Services employees, members of the medical and midwifery staff, students, volunteers, and other persons acting on behalf of Alberta Health Services (including contracted service providers as necessary) working within Medical Device Reprocessing Area.

ELEMENTS

1. All staff shall have a proper orientation (documented training program) which will include use of personal protective equipment (PPE) applicable to each working area.
2. All staff shall be trained in the proper sequence for donning and doffing and handling of PPE, including hand hygiene procedures prior to donning and after doffing of PPE.
3. PPE shall be removed prior to leaving the working area and hand hygiene performed.
4. Reusable PPE shall be cleaned according to MIFU between uses, as part of its ongoing maintenance or sooner if it becomes soiled.
5. Single-use disposable PPE items are to be discarded in the regular garbage after each use, e.g., gown, apron or gloves, if applicable.
6. Staff operating the compressed air hose are responsible to wear assigned eye and hearing protection.
7. When the integrity of gloves, liquid-resistant garments, masks, or protective eyewear is compromised, they shall be replaced immediately, and hand hygiene shall be performed.
8. All staff are required to wear dedicated shoes or boots that are clean, maintained, water resistant and sufficiently durable to prevent injury. The shoe or boot sole in contact with the floor shall be made of a non-skid material or of a non-skid design; shoes shall **not** be open-toed or open-heeled design.
9. Staff shall have access to heatproof mitts when removing carts from a steam sterilizer. These mitts shall be elbow length and laundered or cleaned and disinfected at a minimum on a weekly basis.
10. Gloves must be appropriate to the task, e.g., chemical-resistant when handling chemicals such as detergents or disinfectants and puncture proof. Gloves are to be powder free, cover wrist and forearms (minimum 12inch long cuffs) and allow sufficient dexterity of the fingers. Surgical or

examination gloves shall not be worn for reprocessing.

11. Wear a garment with appropriate barrier qualities for the job function and the task at hand, e.g., a backless gown, jumpsuit, or surgical gown, full coverage is preferable.
12. It is mandatory that the employee wear either a full face shield or a fluid-impervious mask and protective eye wear, prescription eyeglasses is not considered PPE, in the decontamination area.

DEFINITIONS

None

REFERENCES

- Non-Alberta Health Services documents
 - *Reusable & Single-Use Medical Devices Standards*. (Government of Alberta-Alberta Health) (September 2019).
 - *Canadian Medical Device Reprocessing in all Health Care Settings* (Canadian Standards Association) (CAN/CSA Z314-23)

VERSION HISTORY

Date	Action taken
October 2017	Initial approval
April 2023	Last updated
April 2026	Next revision date



This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-Non-commercial-Share Alike 4.0 International license](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/). The licence does not apply to AHS trademarks, logos or content for which Alberta Health Services is not the copyright owner.

Disclaimer: This material is intended for general information only and is provided on an "as is", "where is" basis. Although reasonable efforts were made to confirm the accuracy of the information, Alberta Health Services does not make any representation or warranty, express, implied or statutory, as to the accuracy, reliability, completeness, applicability or fitness for a particular purpose of such information. This material is not a substitute for the advice of a qualified health professional. Alberta Health Services expressly disclaims all liability for the use of these materials, and for any claims, actions, demands or suits arising from such use.