

Summary of Infection Prevention Practices in Dental Settings: Basic Expectations for Safe Care

MODULE 3 — Personal Protective Equipment

Modules in the Slide Series

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3. **Personal Protective Equipment (this module)**
4. Respiratory Hygiene/Cough Etiquette
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9. Dental Unit Water Quality
10. Program Evaluation

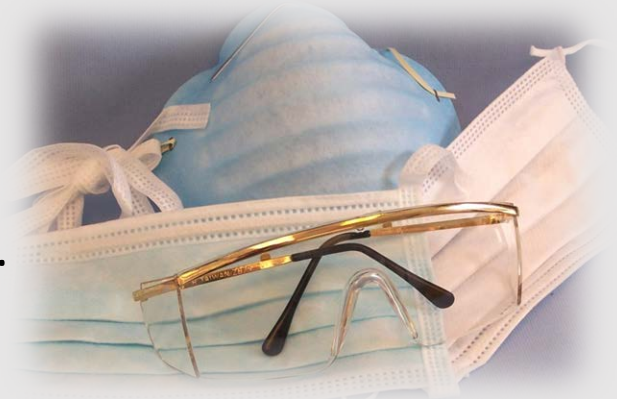
Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- Protects the skin and mucous membranes from exposure to infectious materials in spray or spatter.
- Should be worn whenever there is potential for contact with spray or spatter.
- Should be removed when leaving work areas.



Masks, Protective Eyewear, Face Shields

- Wear a surgical mask and either eye protection with solid side shields or a face shield to protect mucous membranes of the eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Change masks:
 - Between patients.
 - If mask becomes wet during patient treatment.
- Clean reusable face protection:
 - Between patients (with soap and water).
 - If visibly soiled (by cleaning and disinfecting).



Protective Clothing

- Wear gowns or lab coats that cover skin and personal clothing likely to become soiled with blood, saliva, or infectious material.
- Change if visibly soiled.
- Remove all barriers before leaving the work area.



Gloves

- Prevent contamination of DHCP's hands when touching mucous membranes, blood, saliva, or other potentially infectious materials.
- Reduce the likelihood that microorganisms present on the hands of DHCP will be transmitted to patients during surgical or other patient-care procedures.
- Do not eliminate or replace the need for handwashing.



Glove Types – Patient Examination Gloves

Glove Type	Indications	Comment
Patient examination gloves	Patient care, examinations, other nonsurgical procedures involving contact with mucous membranes, and laboratory procedures.	Medical device regulated by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Nonsterile and sterile single-use disposable. Use for one patient and discard appropriately.

Glove Types – Surgeon's Gloves

Glove Type	Indications	Comment
Surgeon's gloves	Surgical procedures	Medical device regulated by FDA. Sterile and single-use disposable. Use for one patient and discard appropriately.

Glove Types – Nonmedical Gloves

Glove Type	Indications	Comment
Nonmedical gloves	<p>Housekeeping procedures (e.g., cleaning, disinfection).</p> <p>Handling contaminated sharps or chemicals.</p> <p>Not for use during patient care.</p>	<p>Not a medical device regulated by FDA.</p> <p>Commonly referred to as utility, industrial, or general purpose gloves. Should be puncture or chemical resistant, depending on the task.</p> <p>Latex gloves do not provide adequate chemical protection.</p> <p>Sanitize after use.</p>

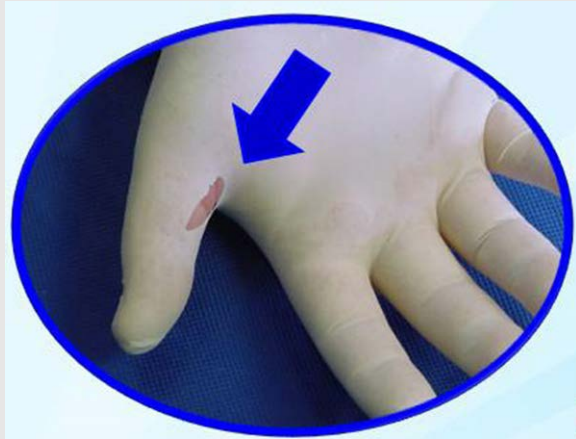
Glove Recommendations

- Wear gloves when contact with blood, saliva, and mucous membranes is possible.
- Wear a new pair of gloves for each patient.
- Remove gloves after patient care and perform hand hygiene immediately.



Glove Recommendations

Remove gloves that are torn, cut, or punctured.



Do not wash, disinfect, or sterilize medical gloves for reuse.



Putting On and Removing PPE

- Follow recommended sequences for PPE donning and removal.
- Recommended sequences and related material available at Protecting Healthcare Personnel

HOW TO SAFELY REMOVE PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)
EXAMPLE 2

How to safely remove PPE without contaminating your clothing, skin, or mucous membranes with potentially infectious materials. Remove all PPE before exiting the patient room except a respirator. Follow the sequence after breaking the infection control barrier for the last PPE in the following sequence.

HOW TO SAFELY REMOVE PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)
EXAMPLE 1

There are a variety of ways to safely remove PPE without contaminating your clothing, skin, or mucous membranes with potentially infectious materials. Here is one example. Remove all PPE before exiting the patient room except a respirator. Follow the sequence after breaking the infection control barrier for the last PPE in the following sequence.

SEQUENCE FOR PUTTING ON PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)

The type of PPE used will vary based on the level of precautions required, such as standard and contact, droplet or airborne precautions and transmission-based precautions. The procedure for putting on and removing PPE should be related to the specific type of PPE.

- GOWN**
 - Fully cover torso from neck to knees, arms to end of wrists, and wrap around the back
 - Fasten in back of neck and waist
- MASK OR RESPIRATOR**
 - Secure ties or elastic bands at middle of head and neck
 - Fit the bow to nose bridge
 - Fit snug to face and below chin
 - Fit-check respirator
- GOGGLES OR FACE SHIELD**
 - Place over face and eyes and adjust to fit
- GLOVES**
 - Extend to cover wrist of isolation gown

USE SAFE WORK PRACTICES TO PROTECT YOURSELF AND LIMIT THE SPREAD OF CONTAMINATION

- Avoid hands away from face
- Avoid surfaces touched
- Change gloves when torn or heavily contaminated
- Perform hand hygiene

Safe Work Practices

- Keep gloved hands away from face.
- Limit surfaces and items touched.
- Change gloves when torn.
- Remove PPE when leaving work areas.
- Perform hand hygiene immediately after removing PPE.

PPE Resources

- CDC. *Guidelines for Infection Control in Dental Health-Care Settings—2003*
- CDC. *Guidance for the Selection and Use of Personal Protective Equipment in Healthcare Settings*
- CDC. *2007 Guideline for Isolation Precautions: Preventing Transmission of Infectious Agents in Healthcare Settings*
 - Figure. Example of Safe Donning and Removal of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- CDC. *Summary of Infection Prevention Practices in Dental Settings: Basic Expectations for Safe Care*

End of Module 3

For more information, contact Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

1-800-CDC-INFO (232-4636)

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The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the CDC.