

PPE

● SKILL SNAPSHOT

Purpose

- Creates task-appropriate barriers that protect patients and healthcare workers from infectious material and hazardous exposure.

When to use

- Based on standard precautions, transmission-based precautions, anticipated exposure, and facility isolation signage.

Supplies needed

- Correct gown; gloves; medical mask or fit-tested respirator; goggles/face shield; additional protection required for task.

● PREP + PATIENT SETUP

- Review isolation sign and anticipated exposure; select correct PPE and size.
- Remove jewelry/secure hair; inspect PPE for damage.
- Identify clean donning area, contaminated

● VAULT TIP

- Don from body outward; doff by treating every front surface as contaminated.

● STEP-BY-STEP

1. Perform hand hygiene before touching PPE.
2. Don gown first. Cover torso from neck to knees and arms to wrists; fasten at neck and waist.
3. Don mask or respirator. Secure ties/loops, mold nosepiece, and place below chin. Perform seal check for a respirator.
4. Don goggles or face shield without interfering with respirator seal.
5. Don gloves last, extending cuffs over gown sleeves.
6. Before entry, check full coverage and range of motion. Avoid touching face or adjusting PPE during care.
7. Change gloves and perform hand hygiene between dirty and clean tasks on the same patient as indicated.
8. Doff at the designated location using facility sequence. Remove gloves without touching bare skin.
9. Remove gown by breaking ties and rolling contaminated surface inward; discard. Gloves/gown may be removed together when trained.
10. Perform hand hygiene. Remove eye protection by earpieces/headband only and place for reprocessing/disposal.
11. Remove mask/respirator by straps without touching front. Remove respirator after leaving room when airborne precautions require.
12. Perform hand hygiene again and inspect clothing/skin for contamination. Follow exposure protocol if a breach occurred.

● SAFETY REMINDERS

- PPE selection depends on exposure; more PPE is not always correct PPE.
- Never touch the contaminated front of mask, gown, or eye protection.
- A respirator requires fit testing and user seal check.
- Hand hygiene is required even after glove use.

● COMMON MISTAKES

- Gloves under gown cuff.
- Removing respirator inside airborne room.
- Touching face during doffing.
- Skipping hand hygiene between steps.

● DOCUMENTATION

- Isolation precautions and patient teaching.
- PPE usually charted only when clinically relevant.
- Exposure/breach and immediate cleansing.
- Occupational-health notification.
- Monitoring/testing or prophylaxis if ordered.