



PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)

1. The Medical Center shall clean, launder, repair, replace and dispose of required PPE at no cost to the visitors in the OR. The types of PPE available to employees are as follows:
 - a. Examples of **impervious** PPE include: gloves, goggles, masks, laboratory coats, gowns, leggings, sleeve protectors, and surgical hoods. Surgical caps, shoe covers and masks assist in personal protection but are not considered PPE.
 - b. Requests for latex-free PPE will be fulfilled by management or EHS when all possible.
2. PPE is located in each unit/department. Managers, preceptors, and educators provide training in correct use of PPE.
3. All visitors using PPE must observe the following precautions:
 - a. Wash/sanitize hands immediately or as soon as feasible after removal of gloves or other PPE.
 - b. Remove PPE after it becomes contaminated and before leaving the work area.
 - c. Used PPE may be disposed of in the normal method: Disposable gowns, gloves, and masks that are not visibly soiled with blood or body fluids may be placed in the regular trash. Reusable PPE shall be placed in a designated area for decontamination/cleaning.
 - d. Wear appropriate gloves when it can be reasonably anticipated that there may be hand contact with blood or body fluids, and when handling or touching contaminated items or surfaces; replace gloves if torn, punctured, contaminated, or if their ability to function as a barrier is compromised. Double gloving may be necessary in certain areas like surgery. Only use a hospital approved hand lotion. Latex gloves may be compromised if hand lotions contain petroleum products such as mineral oil, lanolin, and Vaseline are used.
 - e. Utility gloves may be disinfected for re-use if their integrity is not compromised; discard utility gloves if they show signs of cracking, peeling, tearing, puncturing, or deterioration.
 - f. Never reuse disposable gloves.
 - g. Wear appropriate face and eye protection when splashes, sprays, spatters, or droplets of blood or body fluids pose a hazard to the eye, nose, or mouth.

- h. Remove immediately, or as soon as feasible, any garment contaminated by blood or body fluids in such a way as to avoid contact with the outer surface.
- i. Whenever safety devices are available, visitors are required to make use of them.
- j. “Hands-free” transfer of instruments or use of a “neutral zone” in the OR is practiced to prevent sharps injuries.
- k. Shoes must be closed toes and cover the foot entirely, in areas where exposure to blood or body fluids is likely to occur. (Hospital dress code must not supersede employee safety as regarding OSHA standards for blood and body fluids.) OSHA Standard 29CFR 1910.1030 (d) (3) (I) “PPE will be considered appropriate only if it does not permit blood or other potentially infectious material to pass through or reach the visitors/employees work clothes, street clothes, undergarments, skin eyes, mouth, or other mucous membranes under normal conditions of use for the duration of time which the protective equipment will be used.”