

Environmental Cleaning Standard Operating Procedures

Module 2

Module 2: Personal protective equipment

This Module sets out the routine personal protective equipment (PPE) that may be required by people cleaning in healthcare facilities.

It is a requirement under the Environmental Cleaning Policy that all staff undertaking cleaning are trained in infection control and prevention principles and the correct use of personal protective equipment.¹

Staff undertaking cleaning must wear the appropriate PPE for the specific task as per the signage on doors of rooms or areas to be cleaned, or as advised by their cleaning supervisor, the Nursing/Midwifery Unit Manager (N/MUM), departmental manager (e.g. manager of pathology, radiology) or Infection Prevention and Control Professional (ICP).

Staff should always follow instructions on the signage on doors of patient rooms with transmission based precautions in place.

After use PPE should be cleaned, stored or discarded as required.

Hand protection²

Reusable general purpose gloves

Do...

- use for housekeeping activities
- allocate gloves to individual staff members
- perform hand hygiene immediately before putting on and after removing gloves
- wash general purpose gloves at the end of each task
- thoroughly wash the outside of the gloves with a neutral detergent solution and allow to air dry
- ensure gloves are dry inside and outside before reuse
- discard when peeled, cracked, discoloured, torn or punctured

Disposable gloves

Do...

- use for housekeeping activities
- perform hand hygiene immediately before putting on and after removing gloves
- change gloves for each task
- discard in appropriate waste

Single-use seamed plastic/vinyl gloves

Do...

- use for cleaning food preparation areas only
- perform hand hygiene immediately before putting on and after removing gloves

Environmental Cleaning Standard Operating Procedures

Module 2

Reusable occupational protective gloves (e.g. leather gloves)

Do...

- use for waste handling
- perform hand hygiene immediately before putting on and after removing gloves
- clean gloves as per the manufacturer's instructions
- discard when peeled, cracked, discoloured, torn or punctured

Change and/or discard gloves

Do...

- as soon as they are torn or punctured or when the integrity has been altered
- after completing a cleaning procedure
- before touching surfaces such as door handles, touching equipment not used in the cleaning procedure
- if concerned that the gloves have become contaminated

Do not...

- wear the same pair of disposable gloves all shift
- wear gloves after cleaning has been completed

Facial protection³

Consider the use of a face shield to ensure the protection for both the mouth and eyes.

Mask

Do...

- wear a P2 mask that comply with AS/NZS 1716:2003⁴ when airborne precautions are required
- perform hand hygiene before putting on
- put on mask as per the manufacturer's instructions and check that the mask fits
- cover both mouth and nose
- remove and discard after exiting the room
- perform hand hygiene after removing the mask

Do not...

- touch the mask with your hands while it is being worn
- wear loosely or folded around the neck
- reuse a mask

Protective eyewear - goggles, face visors/shields

Do...

- perform hand hygiene before putting on
- put on and fit according to the manufacturer's instructions
- clean reusable eyewear according to the manufacturer's instructions
- inspect reusable eyewear to ensure it is clean and dry and in working order before storage

Environmental Cleaning Standard Operating Procedures

Module 2

- discard single-use eyewear immediately after removal
- perform hand hygiene after removing protective eyewear

Do not...

- re-use single-use eyewear
- have eyewear hanging around the neck or on top of the head

Gown/apron⁵

Do...

- perform hand hygiene before putting on
- discard gown immediately after removal
- perform hand hygiene after removing the apron/gown

Do not...

- wear gowns/aprons after cleaning has been completed

Head cover

A head cover should be worn when cleaning operating theatres.

Do...

- discard a head cover immediately after using

Do not...

- wear the head cover after cleaning has been completed

Boots/shoe covers

Boots or shoe covers should be worn when cleaning operating theatres and where there are fluid spills.

Do...

- discard boot/shoe covers immediately after removing them
- perform hand hygiene after removing boots/shoe covers

Do not...

- wear boots or shoe covers after cleaning has been completed

Environmental Cleaning Standard Operating Procedures

Module 2

Putting on and removing PPE⁶

Recommended practice for putting on and removing PPE should be in the following sequence:

Putting on in this order*

- perform hand hygiene
- boots/shoe covers
- perform hand hygiene
- gown or apron
- mask
- protective eyewear/visor
- head cover
- gloves



Removing in this order*

- gloves, perform hand hygiene
- head cover
- protective eyewear/visor
- gown/apron
- mask
- boots/shoe covers
- perform hand hygiene

**Some items of PPE may not be required - e.g. boots and shoe covers, and the combination of PPE will affect the sequence. Perform hand hygiene if hands become contaminated during any step.*

¹ Environmental Cleaning Policy PD2011_XXX

² See section 2.1.2 on gloves in *Infection Control Policy PD2007_036*
http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/policies/pd/2007/pdf/PD2007_036.pdf

³ See section 2.1.3 on facial protection in *Infection Control Policy PD2007_036*
http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/policies/pd/2007/pdf/PD2007_036.pdf

⁴ Standards Australia/Standards New Zealand, AS/NZS 1716:2003 - *Respiratory protective devices*

⁵ See section 2.1.4 on gowns/aprons in *Infection Control Policy PD2007_036*
http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/policies/pd/2007/pdf/PD2007_036.pdf

⁶ See section 2.1.5 on donning and removing PPE in *Infection Control Policy PD2007_036*
http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/policies/pd/2007/pdf/PD2007_036.pdf