

# Infection Prevention and Control

## Toolbox Talk: Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)



Local Managers should communicate these key Infection Prevention and Control messages to their staff at handovers, staff meetings, huddles etc.

### Introduction

- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is a requirement of Health and Safety Legislation.
- It protects you (uniform/personal clothing) from direct contact with any potential blood/body fluid.
- Helps prevent onward transmission of harmful bacteria or viruses to the next patient.

### Key Information: Examples of PPE;

- Aprons, Gloves, Fluid Repellent Surgical Facemasks (FRSMs)/FFP3 masks, Face visors.

### When should we use it?

- If exposure to blood/body fluid is anticipated or contamination likely, including eye/face protection. This includes a risk of inhalation from an airborne pathogen. If a mask is worn, it should be changed if it becomes contaminated, damaged or moist.
- <https://www.nhsggc.org.uk/media/237161/ppe-checklist.pdf>

### How do we wear it?

- Should be appropriate for the procedure or task.
- Changed between each patient and each new task on same patient. FFP3 masks should be well fitting (fit test required) Changed if moving from COVID-19 area to non COVID-19 area
- Enhanced PPE would be required for a highly contagious infectious disease (HCID)
- <https://www.nipcm.hps.scot.nhs.uk/appendices/appendix-11-best-practice-aide-memoire-for-optimal-patient-placement-and-respiratory-protective-equipment-rpe-for-infectious-agents-while-a-patient-is-in-hospital/>

Order of donning and doffing of PPE;

#### **AGGA**

- Aprons on
- Gloves on
- Gloves off
- Apron off

Facemask (if worn) should be removed last.

All PPE should be discarded into a clinical waste bin and hand hygiene should be undertaken.

### Discussion/Scenarios

#### What PPE should you wear?

1. Q: When transferring a patient to scan?
  - **A; Nil required, unless risk of contamination likely on transfer, if respiratory TBPs in place, patient should wear a mask on transfer.**
2. Q: While disposing of macerator waste?
  - **A; Gloves and apron (are allowed in the corridor for this purpose).**
3. Q: While walking a patient back to room?
  - **A; Nil required unless risk of contamination.**
4. Q: For TBPs?
  - **A; yellow apron and gloves (and facemask if required).**
5. Q: While flushing an IV?
  - **A; Gloves and apron.**