

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Why wear PPE?

PPE is intended to be worn or held by a person at work and which protects them against one or more risks to their health or safety, and any addition or accessory designed to meet that objective (PPE Regulations 1992).

PPE should be worn based on assessment of the task to be undertaken.

Correct order for putting on full PPE:

- **APRON**
- **MASK**
- **EYE PROTECTION**
- **GLOVES**

Correct removal of PPE in the following order:

- **GLOVES**
- **APRON/GOWN**
- **MASK, when worn**

Hands must be decontaminated after the removal of PPE

PPE is part of everyday healthcare and it is vital that **ALL** staff caring for patients/ residents/ service users have appropriate training in the use of PPE to minimise the risks of cross-contamination .

USE SAFE WORK PRACTICES TO PROTECT YOURSELF AND LIMIT THE SPREAD OF INFECTION
Keep hands away from face
Limit surfaces touched in the patient environment
Change gloves if they became torn or heavily contaminated
Regularly perform hand hygiene
Always clean hands after removing gloves

Disposal of PPE

It is vital that PPE is disposed of correctly:

PPE from non-infectious patients can be disposed of in “offensive” waste (yellow and black striped bags) or clinical or infectious waste (orange bags) streams.

PPE from patients who are infectious must go into clinical infectious waste streams (orange bags), usually for incineration. This waste may be autoclaved and sent for alternative treatment like shredding and landfill. Yellow waste bags may also be used.



All PPE used should be CE marked with this European icon.