HealthStream Regulatory Script

Personal Protective Equipment
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HLC PA Version: 603
HLC CE Version: 1

Lesson 1: Introduction
Lesson 2: PPE Basics
Lesson 3: Use of PPE in Healthcare
Lesson 4: Gloves
Lesson 5: Face and Eye Protection
Lesson 6: Protective Apparel
Introduction

Welcome to the introductory lesson on personal protective equipment (PPE).

As your partner, HealthStream strives to provide its customers with excellence in regulatory learning solutions. As new guidelines are continually issued by regulatory agencies, we work to update courses, as needed, in a timely manner. Since responsibility for complying with new guidelines remains with your organization, HealthStream encourages you to routinely check all relevant regulatory agencies directly for the latest updates for clinical/organizational guidelines.

If you have concerns about any aspect of the safety or quality of patient care in your organization, be aware that you may report these concerns directly to The Joint Commission.
### Course Rationale

In the healthcare setting, there are many biological hazards. This course will teach you how to protect yourself from these hazards by using PPE.

You will learn about:
- The types of PPE used in the healthcare setting
- How to choose the right PPE for the job
- How to use PPE correctly and safely
### Course Goals

After completing this course, you should be able to:

- Recognize when and why OSHA [glossary] requires an employer to provide PPE for employees.
- Recognize when and how PPE should be used in the healthcare setting.
- List best practices for the use of gloves.
- Identify how and when to use masks, goggles, and respirators.
- Recognize when and how protective apparel should be used.
## Course Outline

This introductory lesson gives the course rationale, goals, and outline.

Lesson 2 covers the basics of PPE. This includes your employer’s duty to provide you with PPE.

Lesson 3 discusses the use of PPE in the healthcare setting. This includes when and how PPE should be used.

Lesson 4 gives more details about when and how to use gloves as PPE in healthcare.

Lesson 5 gives similar details about the use of masks and protective eyewear.

Finally, lesson 6 gives details about using protective apparel.

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<td>Introduction</td>
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<tr>
<td>Welcome to the lesson on PPE basics.</td>
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<tr>
<td>This lesson gives important information about workplace hazards and what should be done to protect workers from them.</td>
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<td>Lesson 1: Introduction</td>
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Hazards are present in many work environments.

In the healthcare setting, examples of hazards are:
- Biological hazards, such as infectious materials
- Chemical hazards, such as cleaning and disinfecting supplies
- Hazardous drugs
- Other hazards

OSHA is the government agency that works to protect employees from job hazards.

References 1, 2
Work Practice Controls & Engineering Controls

When a workplace hazard is present, OSHA requires the employer to put safeguards in place.

These safeguards include:
- Engineering controls
- Administrative/Work practice controls

Click on each to learn more.

References 2-5
Personal Protective Equipment

Sometimes, engineering controls and work practice controls are not enough to fully protect workers.

In this case, the employer must provide employees with personal protective equipment (PPE).

Different types of PPE provide different protection. For example, in the healthcare setting:
- Gloves protect the worker from skin contact with hazardous materials.
- Surgical masks protect the worker from mucous membrane contact with hazardous materials.
- Respirators protect the worker from inhaling hazardous materials.

References 2, 3, 6
When there is a hazard in the workplace, employers must protect their employees by providing:

a. Engineering controls
b. Work practice controls
c. Personal protective equipment
d. All of the above, as necessary
e. None of the above

Correct: D

A: Not quite. The best answer is D. Employers must provide engineering and work practice controls to safeguard their employees. If these controls do not fully protect workers, employers must also provide PPE.

B: Not quite. The best answer is D. Employers must provide engineering and work practice controls to safeguard their employees. If these controls do not fully protect workers, employers must also provide PPE.

C: Not quite. The best answer is D. Employers must provide engineering and work practice controls to safeguard their employees. If these controls do not fully protect workers, employers must also provide PPE.

D: Correct. Employers must provide engineering and work practice controls to safeguard their employees. If these controls do not fully protect workers, employers must also provide PPE.

E: Incorrect. The best answer is D. Employers must provide engineering and work practice controls to safeguard their employees. If these controls do not fully protect workers, employers must also provide PPE.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Summary</th>
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You have completed the lesson on basics of PPE.

Remember:
- OSHA requires employers to safeguard their employees.
- When there is a workplace hazard, the employer must provide engineering controls and work practice controls.
- When engineering and work practice controls do not fully protect the employee, the employer must provide PPE as well.
Welcome to the lesson on use of PPE in the healthcare setting.

This lesson explains when, why, and how you should use PPE, and what your employer’s responsibilities are for providing PPE.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Use of PPE in Healthcare</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Remember: the healthcare setting can expose workers to many hazards.</td>
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<tr>
<td>In this course, we will focus on biological hazards.</td>
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<tr>
<td>These are agents that can cause disease, such as bacteria and viruses. These agents may be found:</td>
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<td>- In a patient’s blood or other body fluids</td>
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<td>- In a patient’s respiratory secretions</td>
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<td>- On environmental surfaces</td>
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<td>- In the air</td>
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<tr>
<td>PPE helps protect you from contact with these materials or items.</td>
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<td>Reference: 3</td>
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</table>
When Must PPE Be Used?

You must use PPE whenever you are at risk for exposure to an infectious agent.

You are at risk when you have contact with:

- Any patient, regardless of diagnosis
- A patient with a contact-transmitted disease
- A patient with a droplet-transmitted disease
- A patient with an airborne disease

Click on each category to learn more.

Reference: 3

**CLICK TO REVEAL**

**All patients**

At all times, you should assume that all patients might have a bloodborne disease, such as AIDS. This assumption is the basis for Standard Precautions. Standard Precautions are the CDC’s [glossary] policies and procedures for preventing spread of bloodborne diseases in the healthcare setting. According to Standard Precautions, you must wear appropriate PPE (gloves, mask, gown, etc.) whenever you might have contact with ANY patient’s blood or other potentially infectious materials (OPIM) [glossary]. Note:

- OPIM includes semen, vaginal secretions, and other materials. See the glossary for a complete list of OPIM.
- “Contact” means direct contact with blood and OPIM. It also includes times when there is a risk of a blood splatter or splash, such as during surgery.

**Patients with contact-transmitted disease**

Contact-transmitted diseases are spread by direct or indirect contact with an infected patient. An example of a contact disease is scabies. When you are caring for a patient with a contact-transmitted disease, you must use PPE as outlined in the CDC’s Contact Precautions. For example, you must wear gloves and a gown whenever you enter the patient’s room. This protects your hands, body, and clothing from exposure to infectious agents on the patient or on items or surfaces in the patient’s room.

**Patients with droplet-transmitted disease**

Droplet-transmitted diseases are spread by respiratory droplets. These are small droplets (>5 microns) released when a patient breathes, talks, or coughs. An example of a droplet disease is influenza. When you are caring for a patient with a droplet-transmitted disease, you must use PPE as outlined in the CDC’s Droplet Precautions. For example, you must wear a mask whenever you enter the patient’s room. This prevents the patient’s respiratory droplets from making contact with your eyes, nose, or mouth.

**Patients with airborne disease**

Airborne diseases are spread by tiny (<5 microns) respiratory particles that can travel long distances through the air. An example of this kind of disease is tuberculosis. When you are caring for a patient with an airborne disease, you must use PPE as outlined in the CDC’s Airborne Precautions. For example, you must wear a certified personal respirator whenever you enter the patient’s room. This protects you from inhaling infectious airborne particles.
How Much PPE Do You Need?

In some cases, the likely amount of exposure will help determine the type and amount of PPE you will need.

Click for examples in:
- Contact Precautions
- Standard Precautions
- Droplet Precautions
- Airborne Precautions

Your employer should have policies and procedures in place to help you decide how much PPE to use for each task.

Reference: 3
Employer Responsibilities

Your facility must provide you with necessary PPE. This must be at no cost to you.

Your facility also is responsible for ensuring that:
- PPE is cleaned, maintained, repaired, replaced, and/or disposed of properly.
- You have ready access to the PPE you need.
- PPE is available in sizes that meet your needs.
- Alternative “hypoallergenic” items are available for staff who are allergic to the standard products.
- Staff must receive training on how to choose and use PPE.

Staff should be trained when they are hired. They also should have annual refresher training.

References 5-7
Employer Responsibilities: Which Items?

Remember: your facility has certain responsibilities for PPE.

This raises the question: which items are PPE?

For example, gloves are certainly PPE. But what about:
- Uniforms?
- Scrubs?
- Lab coats?

If these items are meant to be used as PPE in the work setting, they are PPE.

This means:
- The employer must provide, launder, repair, replace, and/or dispose of these items.
- Employees may NOT launder these items at home.

Reference: 6
Employer Responsibilities: Which Items?

On the other hand, if employees launder their own scrubs, uniforms, or lab coats, these items may **not** be used as PPE.

This means:
- The employer must **provide** PPE to be worn over these garments.
- Employees must **wear** PPE over these garments whenever they are at risk for exposure.

Reference: 6
When PPE Becomes Soiled

While you are working, PPE may become:
- Soiled
- Torn
- Damaged

When this happens:
- Remove the PPE as soon as possible.
- Wash the affected area with soap and water (as appropriate).
- Replace the PPE.

If you think you might have been exposed to infectious materials when the PPE was soiled, report to your supervisor immediately.

Reference: 6
### Removing PPE After Use

Remember: Remove damaged or soiled PPE as soon as possible.

Before leaving the work area, remove **all** PPE. This is true whether or not the PPE is visibly soiled.

Prolonged use of PPE could lead to contamination of the work environment. This could expose coworkers, visitors, or patients to infection.

After carefully removing used PPE, place it in the proper bin for disposal or cleaning.

Follow your facility’s policies to choose the right bin for each type of PPE.

Reference: 6
**Review**

*Select the answer that best fits the question.*

Choose the true statement(s):

a. If PPE is not visibly soiled, it may be worn home.

b. Healthcare workers may launder their own PPE if they wish.

c. Soiled or damaged PPE must be removed as soon as possible.

d. Employees must clean, maintain, repair, and replace their own PPE.

e. All of the above

**Multiple Choice Interaction**

[CORRECT ANSWER: C]

A: Incorrect. The correct answer is C.

B: Incorrect. The correct answer is C.

C: Correct.

D: Incorrect. The correct answer is C.

E: Incorrect. The correct answer is C.
Summary

You have completed the lesson on use of PPE in healthcare.

Remember:
- Healthcare workers must use PPE when they are at risk for exposure to an infectious agent.
- The type of infectious agent helps determine the type of PPE.
- In some cases, the likely amount of exposure also will help determine the type and amount of PPE.
- Your facility must provide and maintain PPE.
- If an item is used as PPE, your facility must dispose of or launder it. Items that you take home and launder yourself may not be used as PPE.
- Visibly soiled or damaged PPE should be removed as soon as possible. All PPE should be removed before leaving the work area.
Welcome to the lesson on gloves.

This lesson describes different types of gloves used as PPE, when they should be used, and the best ways of using them.

**Lesson 4: Gloves**
- When to use gloves
- Types of gloves
- Glove best practices
When to Use Gloves

To protect against spread of infection, gloves must be used as PPE:
- When you may have exposure to blood or other potentially infectious materials (OPIM)
- When you are working with a patient on Contact Precautions

References 3, 6
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gloves as PPE</th>
<th>CLICK TO REVEAL</th>
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Several types of gloves are available for use as PPE in the healthcare setting.

The most common types are:
- **Powdered latex gloves**
- **Powder-free latex gloves**
- **Polymer exam gloves**
- **Nitrile gloves**
- **Vinyl gloves**
- **Utility gloves**

Click on each type of glove to learn more.

Reference: 8
Latex Sensitivity/Allergy

Remember: Latex gloves carry a risk of causing a reaction.

Symptoms of an allergic reaction to latex are:
- Itching
- Sneezing
- Flushing
- Coughing
- Tightness in the throat
- Breathing problems
- Nasal, eye, or sinus symptoms
- Hives, rash, or sores where skin is in contact with latex

In more severe cases, employees exposed to latex can have life-threatening reactions.

References 9, 10
Latex Sensitivity/Allergy

If you have any symptoms of a reaction when using latex products or supplies, report these symptoms to your supervisor.

You should receive proper evaluation and treatment.

Latex-free gloves and other PPE must be made available for your use.

Remember: Never assume that a glove is latex-free unless it specifically states “latex-free.” Hypoallergenic does not necessarily mean latex-free.

In extreme cases, personnel may require job reassignment to avoid further exposure to latex materials.

References 6, 8, 10
Glove Best Practices: When to Use

Follow these best practices for glove use:
- Wear gloves when you may have contact with blood or OPIM.
- Wear gloves when you may have contact with contaminated items or surfaces.
- Wear gloves when you enter the room of a patient on Contact Precautions.

References 3, 6
Glove Best Practices: How to Use

Also follow these best practices:
- Wear the right size. Gloves too large or too small can increase the risk of injury or exposure.
- Do not wear gloves over rings or other jewelry. Keep fingernails clipped short. They should be no longer than ¼ inch long. Do not wear artificial nails.
- Use sterile gloves for invasive procedures.
- Use non-sterile exam gloves for non-invasive procedures.
- Replace soiled or damaged gloves as soon as possible.
- Always wash your hands after taking off gloves. Wash hands before putting on a new pair of gloves.
- Always change gloves between patients.
- Do not wash or reuse disposable gloves.

References 3, 6, 8
Glove Reminders

Keep in mind:
- Gloves protect the hands from exposure. However, neither vinyl nor latex gloves are completely impermeable.
- Gloves are generally not necessary for contact with intact skin. However, this depends on the patient’s diagnosis.
- Double-gloving may be appropriate for certain procedures, such as suturing.
- Reusable utility gloves may be washed and reused. However, they must be discarded when stained or damaged.
- If gloves are not used correctly, they can help spread infection, instead of preventing the spread of infection.

References 3, 6, 8
| Drag and drop the terms in the list on the left to complete the sentences on the right. | Latex (proteins) bind to the (powder) used in glove manufacturing.  
Nitrile gloves are more resistant to (puncture) than are latex gloves.  
Hands should be (washed) before and after glove use.  
Gloves too (large) or too (small) can increase risk of injury or exposure.  
Word list:  
proteins  
powder  
puncture  
washed  
large  
small |
|---|---|
Summary

You have completed the lesson on gloves.

Remember:
- There are several types of gloves used in healthcare. The appropriate glove should be chosen for each task.
- If you are allergic to latex, your facility should provide you with latex-free gloves and other PPE.
- Follow best practices for glove use. This will help you protect yourself and others from exposure to infection.
Welcome to the lesson on face and eye protection.

This lesson discusses PPE such as surgical masks, respirators, and goggles, and how they should be used.

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<td>• Respirators</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Goggles</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
When to Use Face and Eye Protection

PPE to protect the mouth, nose, and/or eyes from exposure should be used when:
- You may be exposed to splashes or sprays of blood or OPIM.
- You are working with a patient on Droplet Precautions.
- You enter the room of a patient on Airborne Precautions.

Let’s take a closer look at each of these situations on the following screens.

References 3, 6
When to Use a Mask

When there may be splashes or splatters of blood or OPIM, healthcare personnel should wear one of the following:
- A surgical mask plus goggles with side shields
- A face shield that completely covers the face

When working closely with a patient on Droplet Precautions, staff should wear a surgical or procedure mask.

References 3, 6
Surgical Mask Best Practices

Surgical masks come in several different styles. These include:
- Cone-shaped
- Flat-pleated
- Duck-billed
- Pouch

Masks are held to the face by ties or elastic bands that hook over the ears.

Make sure you know how to use the mask(s) available to you.

Reference: 11
Surgical Mask Best Practices

When using a mask:
- The mask should fit securely. It should cover the mouth AND nose to prevent exposure. It should be secured in a manner to prevent venting.
- Do not touch the outside of the mask.
- If the mask becomes soiled or wet after prolonged use, remove it. Wash your hands. Put on a new mask.
- Completely remove the mask and discard properly after use. Do not pull the mask off and let it hang around your neck.

References 3, 12
N95 Respirators

A surgical mask protects against droplet transmission.

However, a surgical mask will NOT protect against airborne transmission. Airborne particles are small enough to pass through a mask.

To protect against airborne transmission, a certified personal respirator must be used.

A commonly used respirator is the N95 respirator. One type of N95 respirator is shown here.

References 3, 13, 14
### N95 Respirators

An N95 respirator or other respirator should be used every time you enter the room of a patient on Airborne Precautions. This includes patients with:
- Tuberculosis
- Measles
- Chickenpox or shingles

Note: Personnel who are not immune to measles or chickenpox/shingles should not work with patients who have these diseases.

The CDC also recommends use of a N95 respirator at minimum when working with patients with:
- Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS)
- Avian flu
- Pandemic influenza
- Seasonal influenza A

References 3, 14

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The CDC and OSHA suggest using powered air purifying respirators (PAPR) for aerosol generating procedures such as:</th>
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<td>• High flow oxygen delivery</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Bronchoscopy</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Airway suctioning</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Endotracheal intubation and extubation</td>
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</table>

The PAPR:
- Is not disposable
- Has a full hood or enclosed face cover system
- Provides a higher level of respiratory protection than the N95 respirator
You may not use an N95 respirator until you have been fit-tested.

First, you will need to answer questions about your respiratory status and smoking habits. Some employees will not be able to wear a respirator because of medical conditions.

You will then need to try on an N95 respirator. Its fit will be tested in one of two ways:
- One type of test relies on your feedback about how the mask feels and works.
- The other type of test measures the number of particles able to leak past the mask into your breathing space.

References 13, 14
When to Wear Goggles

Remember: Goggles should be worn (with a surgical mask) during procedures that could cause splashes or splatters of blood or OPIM.

This includes during:
- Oral suctioning
- Irrigating a wound
- Cleaning and disinfecting instruments

Goggles must have side shields.

As an alternative to goggles plus a mask, a full face shield may be used.

References 3, 15
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>5010</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Goggles vs. Prescription Glasses</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regular prescription glasses are NOT goggles. Check with your supervisor if you wish to purchase prescription eyewear with side shields for full eye protection. Your facility may cover this cost. References 3, 15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Review

**Select the answer that best fits the question.**

Choose the true statement(s):

- a. N95 respirators protect against exposure to airborne disease.
- b. Surgical masks and N95 respirators can be used interchangeably.
- c. Surgical masks protect against exposure to blood and respiratory droplets.
- d. Both A and C
- e. All of the above

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**Multiple Choice Interaction**

Correct: D

A: Not quite. The best answer is D.

B: Incorrect. The correct answer is D.

C: Not quite. The correct answer is D.

D: Correct.

E: Incorrect. The correct answer is D.
### Summary

You have completed the lesson on face and eye protection.

**Remember:**
- Wear a surgical mask and goggles if you could be exposed to splashes or sprays of blood or OPIM. Goggles must have side shields.
- Wear a surgical mask when working with a patient on Droplet Precautions.
- Follow best practices for correct mask use.
- Use an N95 respirator when working with a patient with an airborne disease. A surgical mask does NOT provide protection in this case.
- Fit-testing is required before you may use a respirator.
### Protective Apparel

Welcome to the lesson on protective apparel.

This lesson explains when and how protective apparel such as gowns, lab coats, and aprons should be used.

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<th>Lesson 6: Protective Apparel</th>
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<td>- Gowns</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Other protective apparel</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
When to Use a Gown

You must use a gown as PPE:
- When there is a risk of splashes or spills of infectious materials
- When you enter the room of a patient on Contact Precautions
- When you are caring for a patient whose body fluids, blood, secretions, or excretions may come in contact with your skin or clothing

Reference: 3
To protect against splatters and spills, you may need to wear a gown in:

- Emergency rooms
- Surgical areas
- Laboratories
- Delivery suites
- Other invasive procedure areas

The type of gown used in each work area must protect against the type and amount of soiling that might happen in that area.

In most cases, a disposable cover gown is used.

Gowns are generally long-sleeved and always used with gloves, which are extended to cover the wrist of the gown.

References 2, 3
If blood or OPIM ever penetrates your gown, inform your supervisor immediately.

This incident must be investigated to determine whether you were using the proper gown for the task.

If your clothing becomes contaminated, it must be:
- Removed to prevent skin or mucous membrane contact
- Laundered by your employer

References 3, 5, 6
Gowns in Isolation Rooms

Wearing a gown when working with a patient on Contact Precautions or during aerosol-generating procedures or surgery has two purposes:

- It protects the healthcare worker from contact with the infectious organism.
- It prevents transmission of the organism to other patients or the environment.

Wear a gown if you think your clothing is likely to touch the patient or items in the patient’s room.

Also wear a gown each time you enter the patient’s room if the patient has:

- Incontinence
- Diarrhea
- Ileostomy
- Colostomy
- Wound drainage without a dressing

Always remove the gown and discard properly BEFORE leaving the isolation room.

Reference: 3
Aprons and Lab Coats

Cover gowns are not used in all settings to protect clothing.

An impermeable apron may be used instead, in some labs.

Lab coats are generally not considered PPE. This is because they do not prevent strike-through of wet substances.

However, if lab coats are considered barrier protection to prevent soiling of clothing, they are, by definition, PPE.

In this case, they must be provided and laundered by the employer.

References 2, 3, 6
A Word About Surgical Settings

Protective apparel in surgical, obstetrical, or emergency room settings should provide a good barrier to fluid penetration.

In addition to fluid-resistant gowns, other items of PPE that may be needed include:

- A protective head cover or hood
- Fluid-resistant shoe covers or booties

As with all PPE discussed in this course, head and shoe covers must:

- Cover exposed areas
- Fit properly
- Be removed when soiled or torn

Always wash your hands after removing soiled PPE. Be certain to discard used PPE in an appropriate bin.

References 3, 6
Resuscitation Devices

To prevent exposure to oral secretions or blood during patient resuscitation, ambu bags or disposable resuscitation devices must be used.

Employees should not engage in mouth-to-mouth resuscitation.

Know:
- Which devices are available in your work area
- How to use them properly

Reference: 3
Select the answer that best fits the question.

Protective apparel must cover and protect the entire body.

a. True  
b. False

**True / False Interaction**

[CORRECT ANSWER: B]

[RESPONSE TO A: Incorrect. This statement is false. Apparel must cover the parts of the bodies at risk for exposure.]

[RESPONSE TO B: Correct. This statement is false. Protective clothing must cover the parts of the body at risk for exposure.]
Summary

You have completed the lesson on protective apparel.

Remember:
- Wear a fluid-resistant gown to protect against splashes or sprays of blood in settings such as the OR and ER. Wear the type of gown that will protect against the amount of splashing and soiling expected.
- Wear a gown in certain cases whenever you enter the room of a patient on Contact or Standard Precautions.
- Aprons may be used as PPE in the lab setting. Lab coats are not usually considered PPE.
- In the surgical setting, it may be necessary to wear a hood and booties.
- Use a protective device for patient resuscitation. Do not perform mouth-to-mouth resuscitation.
References


## Glossary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>bloodborne pathogen</td>
<td>disease-causing microorganism present in the bloodstream</td>
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<td>2.</td>
<td>communicable disease</td>
<td>a disease that can be transmitted directly or indirectly from person to person</td>
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<td>3.</td>
<td>contamination</td>
<td>the presence of infectious materials on an item or surface.</td>
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<td>4.</td>
<td>engineering controls</td>
<td>devices or equipment that isolate or remove hazards from the workplace</td>
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<td>5.</td>
<td>infectivity</td>
<td>ability to cause disease</td>
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<td>6.</td>
<td>mucous membrane</td>
<td>membrane lining passages and cavities communicating with the air (i.e., eyes, nose, mouth, genitourinary tract)</td>
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<td>7.</td>
<td>other potentially infectious material (OPIM)</td>
<td>materials that carry or may carry bloodborne pathogens: certain human body fluids (semen, vaginal secretions, cerebrospinal fluid, pleural fluid, pericardial fluid, peritoneal fluid, amniotic fluid, saliva during dental procedures, any body fluid visibly contaminated with blood, all body fluids when it is difficult or impossible to tell which fluid is which); any unfixed human or non-human primate tissue or organ except intact skin; HIV- or HBV- containing experimental materials (e.g., cell cultures, etc.); and all human cell lines</td>
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<td>8.</td>
<td>PAPR</td>
<td>Powered air purifying respirator. A non disposable full hood or enclosed face cover system that provides a higher level of respiratory protection than the N95 respirator. OSHA and the CDC suggest workers use this for aerosol generating procedures.</td>
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<td>9.</td>
<td>personal protective equipment (PPE)</td>
<td>specialized clothing or equipment worn by employees for protection against a hazard</td>
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<td>10.</td>
<td>SARS</td>
<td>severe acute respiratory syndrome</td>
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<td>11.</td>
<td>Standard Precautions</td>
<td>an approach to infection control that treats all patient blood and body fluids as potentially infectious</td>
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<tr>
<td>12.</td>
<td>virulence</td>
<td>the degree or relative power to produce disease</td>
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Exam

1. OSHA is:
   a. The government agency that provides funding for disaster cleanup
   b. The government agency that works to protect employees from job hazards
   c. The government agency that monitors compliance with Medicare regulations
   d. The government agency that enforces EMTALA and the HIPAA Privacy Rule

Correct: B
Rationale: OSHA addresses workplace hazards.

2. An engineering control is:
   a. A practical method for avoiding regulations
   b. An instruction manual for how to operate a piece of equipment
   c. A device or mechanism with built-in safety features that remove a hazard from the workplace
   d. A way of doing a particular task that reduces the employee's risk of being exposed to a hazard

Correct: C
Rationale: An engineering control is a device with built-in safety features to address a workplace hazard.

3. An example of a work practice control in the healthcare setting is:
   a. Safety needles
   b. Personal respirator
   c. Not recapping needles
   d. Sharps disposal container

Correct: C
Rationale: A work practice control is a way of doing a job to avoid a hazard. An example is not recapping needles.

4. In the healthcare setting, PPE should be used:
   a. By all clinical and non-clinical staff
   b. To protect against contact with infectious materials
c. Only when caring for patients with particular diagnoses
d. As a replacement for washing hands between patient contacts

Correct: B
Rationale: In the healthcare setting, PPE is most often used to avoid contact with infectious agents.

5. Wear gloves and a gown whenever you enter a patient's room if the patient is on:
   a. Contact Precautions
   b. Droplet Precautions
   c. Airborne Precautions
   d. Universal Precautions

Correct: A
Rationale: Wear gloves and a gown whenever you enter a contact isolation room.

6. Wear gloves when you might have contact with patient blood. This use of PPE applies to:
   a. All patients
   b. Only patients with confirmed HIV/AIDS
   c. Only patients with confirmed or suspected HIV/AIDS
   d. Only patients with HIV/AIDS, hepatitis B, or hepatitis C

Correct: A
Rationale: Glove use to prevent contact with blood is part of Standard Precautions. Standard Precautions apply to all patients.

7. Providing and paying for a healthcare worker's PPE is the responsibility of:
   a. OSHA
   b. The patient
   c. The healthcare worker
   d. The healthcare facility

Correct: D
Rationale: Employers are responsible for providing and paying for PPE.
8. In a particular healthcare facility, employees launder their own scrubs. Choose the true statement about this healthcare facility:
   a. Scrubs may be used as PPE.
   b. Scrubs may NOT be used as PPE.

Correct: B
Rationale: Employers must launder PPE. An item laundered by employees may not be used as PPE.

9. In a particular healthcare facility, scrubs are meant to be used as PPE. Choose the true statement about this facility:
   a. The employer must provide scrubs.
   b. The employer is NOT responsible for providing scrubs.

Correct: A
Rationale: Employers must provide PPE.

10. When damaged or soiled PPE is removed after use:
    a. The PPE should be checked for infectious material before disposal.
    b. The PPE should be placed in the proper bin for disposal or cleaning.
    c. The employee should place the PPE in his or her locker for later re-use.
    d. The employee should carefully wrap the PPE to take home for disposal or cleaning.

Correct: B
Rationale: Damaged or soiled PPE should be removed and placed in the proper bin for disposal or cleaning.

11. In the healthcare setting, gloves must be worn when there is a risk of exposure to blood or:
    a. When there may be contact with intact patient skin
    b. When working with a patient on Contact Precautions
    c. When working with a patient on Droplet Precautions
    d. When a patient is known to have latex allergy or sensitivity

Correct: B
Rationale: Wear gloves when working with a patient on Contact Precautions or when you may have contact with blood or OPIM.
12. A best practice for glove use is:
   a. Wash hands before and after glove use.
   b. Wash and reuse disposable gloves to save money.
   c. Use non-sterile exam gloves for invasive procedures.
   d. Ensure a snug fit by wearing gloves one size too small.

Correct: A
Rationale: Hands should be washed before and after glove use.

13. In the healthcare setting, a surgical mask must be worn when there is a risk of exposure to splashes of blood or:
   a. During all care tasks with a geriatric patient
   b. When working with a patient on Droplet Precautions
   c. When working with a patient on Contact Precautions
   d. During noninvasive care tasks with a patient known to have HIV/AIDS

Correct: B
Rationale: Wear a surgical mask when working with a patient on Droplet Precautions or when you may be exposed to splashes or sprays of blood or OPIM.

14. A gown is most likely to be needed as PPE in:
   a. An office
   b. An exam room
   c. A waiting room
   d. An operating room

Correct: D
Rationale: A gown is needed to protect against splashes or sprays of blood in the OR.
15. When a job hazard is present, OSHA:
   a. Finds a safer workplace for employees
   b. Organizes employees to protest the hazard
   c. Requires the employer to put safeguards in place
   d. Provides funding to the employer to eliminate the hazard

   Correct: C
   Rationale: OSHA requires employers to safeguard their employees against job hazards.

16. An employer must provide workers with PPE:
   a. If workers request PPE
   b. If a worker's union negotiates for PPE
   c. When the employer is able to afford additional protection for workers exposed to job hazards
   d. When engineering and work practice controls are not enough to fully protect workers from job hazards

   Correct: D
   Rationale: Employers must provide PPE whenever engineering and work practice controls are not enough to fully safeguard against job hazards.

17. Wear a certified personal respirator whenever you enter a patient's room if the patient is on:
   a. Droplet Precautions
   b. Contact Precautions
   c. Standard Precautions
   d. Airborne Precautions

   Correct: D
   Rationale: Wear a respirator to enter an airborne isolation room.
18. Under Standard Precautions, the amount and type of PPE to use for a particular task depend on:
   a. The duration of the task
   b. The likely amount of exposure
   c. Whether the patient has a confirmed bloodborne disease
   d. Whether the patient has confirmed or suspected HIV/AIDS

Correct: B
Rationale: Choose PPE based on the likely amount of potential exposure.

19. If a healthcare worker has a sensitivity reaction to latex gloves:
   a. The worker should use utility gloves for patient care tasks.
   b. The employer must provide latex-free gloves and other PPE.
   c. The worker is responsible for providing his or her own latex-free gloves.
   d. The employer must allow the worker to provide patient care without gloves.

Correct: B
Rationale: Employers must provide latex-free PPE for workers who are allergic to latex

20. Airborne Precautions are used if a patient has an infection caused by:
   a. A spider bite
   b. Tuberculosis
   c. Blood poisoning
   d. A contaminated catheter

Correct: B
Rationale: Airborne Precautions are used when infectious agents such as tuberculosis may remain suspended in the air a long time and travel long distances.