

## FAQ

### Module 2 Personal Protective Equipment

**Facilitator notes:** Each Project Firstline CNA module is designed to provide 30 minutes of training content with optional post-training discussion using the *FAQ* files. Use any or all *FAQ* below to initiate further discussion among CNA after trainings, during huddles or team meetings, etc.

#### When to Wear PPE

**1. Do I need to wear PPE in an isolation room if I'm only going in to ask a question?**

Yes. PPE is always required when entering an isolation or precautions room. Refer to any signs posted at the room entrance for information on what PPE is required, or ask your infection preventionist or nurse manager if you are unsure. PPE is required, in certain precaution types, to be worn when entering the resident's room, and removed inside the room, to prevent germs from going from inside the room out to the rest of the facility. As part of Standard Precautions, PPE such as gowns, gloves, and face shields should be worn if anticipating contact with any blood, body fluids, and open sores, even if the resident is not in precautions.

**2. Do I need to wear a gown or gloves while feeding a resident?**

In general, you don't need to wear PPE to feed a resident. However, if your resident is completely dependent on you for the feeding, you need to clean your hands and wear gloves and a gown to assist safely.

**3. Should I wear gloves in the hallway?**

No, instead remove your gloves and clean your hands immediately after you've completed your task. Wearing gloves in the hallway risks spreading germs into the environment and to other people.

**4. Should I wear my gown and gloves to carry dirty linen to the hamper in the hallway?**

No, PPE should not be worn in hallways; PPE should be taken off before leaving the room. Here's how you can proceed: Bring the linen hamper to outside of the door. Perform hand hygiene and put on PPE. Remove and bag the dirty linen. Then remove your PPE and perform hand hygiene. Transport the dirty linen bag to the hamper and perform hand hygiene once more.

**5. If I see a physician go into an isolation room without proper PPE, what should I do?**

One option is to gently respond to the physician with the proper protocol. You can lead by example and start with "Excuse me Dr Smith, this resident is on isolation and PPE is needed before going in." This stops the potential exposure. If you are not comfortable doing this, then you should immediately go to your supervisor for assistance. A potential breach needs to be stopped if possible or addressed right away.

## Donning/Doffing PPE

### 6. What if I forget the order to don (put on) or doff (take off) PPE?

Donning and doffing technique and sequence is focused on not contaminating yourself or the environment. At each step of the donning and doffing process, we can prevent contamination and prevent transmission of disease. Knowing what parts of your PPE get contaminated (generally, the outside) should help with remembering the donning and doffing order. The sleeves and front of the PPE gown are the most contaminated. It's important to take the gown off in a way so that the gown doesn't touch your clothing, and the sleeves don't touch your face when attempting to untie neck ties.

You can ask your colleagues to review your donning and doffing procedure and correct you if they see any mistakes. A good rule of thumb if you are unsure if you took off PPE in the correct order is to stop, perform hand hygiene, and continue.

See the [CDC's PPE guide](http://www.cdc.gov/hai/pdfs/ppe/ppe-sequence.pdf) (PDF) ([www.cdc.gov/hai/pdfs/ppe/ppe-sequence.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/hai/pdfs/ppe/ppe-sequence.pdf)) for graphics that can be printed and laminated so you can hang them in your facility. Also see the "Clean and Dirty Area of PPE" diagram in the PPE presentation for reference.

## Troubleshooting PPE

### 7. What if my mask, goggles, or face shield need to be readjusted while I'm performing a task?

Make sure your mask, goggles, or face shield are on correctly before starting your task. This will prevent you from having to readjust your PPE. However, if your PPE has shifted into a position that jeopardizes you or your resident's safety, you should stop what you're doing; remove your gloves; adjust your mask, goggles, or face shield; perform hand hygiene; and put on clean gloves.

You can also ask for assistance from a colleague; make sure they perform hand hygiene before and after readjusting your PPE.

### 8. If my gown sleeves slide up and my arms are exposed, should I wear longer gloves?

Make sure that your gloves are covering your wrist and that your gown sleeves are tucked into your gloves. If it is a consistent problem, such as when transporting or bathing residents, ask your infection preventionist about gowns with thumb hooks or longer gloves.

### 9. If while taking care of one resident my gloves become soiled, is it acceptable to change only my gloves or do I need to put on a full set of PPE?

Yes, you can doff and re-don only your gloves. Make sure to perform hand hygiene immediately after doffing your soiled gloves and before donning your clean gloves.

## References

- [About Project Firstline | Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](http://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/projectfirstline/about.html) ([www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/projectfirstline/about.html](http://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/projectfirstline/about.html))

- [How to Safely Remove Personal Protective Equipment \(PPE\) | Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](https://www.cdc.gov/hai/pdfs/ppe/ppe-sequence.pdf) (PDF)  
([www.cdc.gov/hai/pdfs/ppe/ppe-sequence.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/hai/pdfs/ppe/ppe-sequence.pdf))
- [Infection Control in Health Care Facilities | Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](https://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/infectioncontrol/index.htm)  
([www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/infectioncontrol/index.htm](https://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/infectioncontrol/index.htm))
- [Sequence for Putting on Personal Protective Equipment \(PPE\) | Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](https://www.cdc.gov/hai/pdfs/ppe/ppe-sequence.pdf) (PDF)  
([www.cdc.gov/hai/pdfs/ppe/ppe-sequence.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/hai/pdfs/ppe/ppe-sequence.pdf))