

IPC Bulletin for Care Homes

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Donning and doffing stations for personal protective equipment

The donning and doffing stations should be separate to avoid contamination of clean personal protective equipment (PPE). Risk assessments should be made prior to siting the stations.

Donning station

The 'donning station' must be situated appropriately to ensure ease of access to PPE. The donning station must include:

- Alcohol handrub
- Supply of aprons
- Clinical waste bags (yellow and black, orange)
- Eye protection - goggles/visors
- Fluid resistant surgical masks (FRSM)
- Foot operated pedal bin with appropriate waste bag inside
- Supply of gloves (all sizes)
- Alcohol wipes (at least 70% alcohol)
- Step-by-step guide on how to put on personal protective equipment, laminated and displayed



An example of a scenario highlighting good practice when using PPE

Leanne is a care assistant at a Nursing Home, Sue, one of the residents, has rung the call bell. At the donning station, Leanne cleans her hands and follows the step-by-step guide which is laminated and displayed on the wall, on how to put on (don) personal protective equipment.

Before Leanne enters Sue's room, she takes an extra pair of gloves and apron, and once inside the room she places them on a set of drawers 2 metres away from Sue, next to the foot operated lined bin.

Sue has finished using the commode and Leanne assists Sue to clean her hands and then helps her into an armchair. Leanne places the commode lid on top and moves the commode 2 metres away from Sue. She positions it near the drawers where her spare gloves, apron and the foot operated bin are situated.

She correctly removes her gloves and places them in the bin using the foot operated pedal so as not to contaminate her hands. She cleans her hands using alcohol handrub, ensuring she follows the same technique as when she washes her hands, and then removes her apron and places it in the waste bin.

She cleans her hands again with the handrub and dons the spare gloves and apron she brought in with her. She keeps her face mask in place as this has not been touched. Leanne then leaves Sue's room with the commode to take it to the sluice (dirty utility) to clean the commode. She then follows the step-by-step guide which is laminated and displayed on the wall, on how to remove (doff) her PPE correctly, cleaning her hands after removing each item of PPE, e.g. pair of gloves, apron.

Doffing station

The 'doffing station' must be situated 2 metres away from the resident as appropriate:

- Foot operated bin with the correct waste bag inside
- Step-by-step guide on how to remove personal protective equipment, laminated and displayed
- Sink to wash hands or alcohol handrub to clean hands between removing every item of PPE, e.g. pair of gloves, apron
- FRSM remains in place (unless soiled)

Visit our website to find lots of IPC resources, many of which are free to download.
www.infectionpreventioncontrol.co.uk

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