



Tips for Selecting and Using Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Job Aid

Clothing

- Change protective clothing when contaminated and remove it after work is completed.
- Discard disposable protective clothing as hazardous waste.
- Institutions should launder reusable laboratory coats.
- Do not take protective clothing out of the laboratory.

Eye and Face Protection

- Discard disposable eye and face protection with contaminated waste.
- Decontaminate reusable eye and face protection before reuse.

Gloves

- Change gloves when contaminated or integrity is compromised.
- Do not wash or reuse.
- Remove gloves when work is completed and before leaving the laboratory.
- Dispose of gloves with other hazardous laboratory waste.

Respirators

- If respirators are used, OSHA requires employers to establish and maintain an effective Respiratory Protection Program that includes worksite-specific procedures, respirator selection, medical clearance, annual training, and fit testing with the same make, model, style, and size of respirator that will be used.
- Please refer to your laboratory-specific SOP and speak with your supervisor to determine respirator disposal and decontamination practices for your location.

Training

- Training and practice on the use of PPE are critical for safe operations in the clinical laboratory. If not used properly, PPE may not provide adequate protection as designed.
- Laboratory professionals should routinely practice putting on, removing, and wearing procedure-specific PPE while conducting laboratory procedures to determine their level of comfort and physical ability.
- For more information on OSHA requirements, please view:
<https://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/regulations/standardnumber/1910/1910.132>

This job aid is a component of the free, on-demand CDC training course “Fundamentals of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) in Clinical Laboratories.” Find the course at <https://reach.cdc.gov/training>.