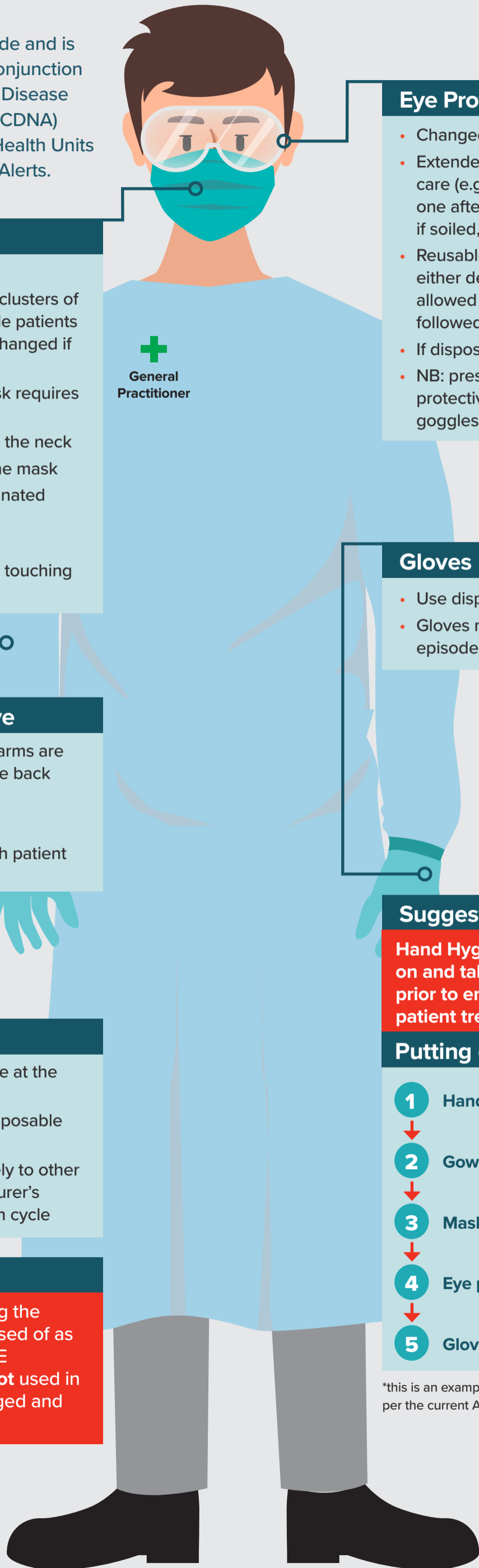


General Practitioners taking COVID-19 specimens

This is intended as a quick reference guide and is subject to change. It should be read in conjunction with latest versions of the – Coronavirus Disease 2019 Communicable Diseases Network (CDNA) Australia National Guidelines for Public Health Units (SoNG) and the SA Health Public Health Alerts.



Surgical Mask Level 2

- Changed in between patients, or
- Extended wear can occur if performing clusters of care (e.g. taking specimens from multiple patients one after the other) but mask must be changed if soiled, wet, damaged or contaminated
- Mask must not be repositioned, if a mask requires repositioning it must be changed
- Masks must not be left dangling around the neck
- Wearers should not touch the front of the mask
- Mask must not be worn out of the designated work area
- Mask must not be worn on breaks
- Hand hygiene must be performed upon touching or discarding a used mask

Eye Protection – Face Shield or Goggles

- Changed in between patients, or
- Extended wear can occur if performing clusters of care (e.g. taking specimens from multiple patients one after the other) but eye wear must be changed if soiled, damaged or contaminated
- Reusable eye protection to be cleaned with either detergent and water or detergent wipe and allowed to dry or dried with a clean paper towel, followed by a disinfectant or alcohol wipe
- If disposable, discard
- NB: prescription glasses are not considered protective eyewear and additional face shield or goggles should be worn

Gloves

- Use disposable examination gloves
- Gloves must be changed between patients or episodes of care (single use only)

Disposable gown – Long Sleeve

- Put on the gown so that your front and arms are fully covered and gown opening is at the back
- Fasten ties at the neck and at the back
- Tuck gown cuff under glove
- Gown should be changed between each patient (single use only)

Clothing

- If you wear a uniform you should change at the beginning and end of your shift
- Uniforms should be taken home in a disposable plastic bag
- Uniforms should be laundered separately to other items and in accordance with manufacturer’s instructions, preferably using a hot wash cycle

Waste

Waste, including PPE, generated during the course of clinical care should be disposed of as clinical waste. All non-visibly soiled PPE (e.g. no blood, faeces or body fluids) not used in the course of clinical care, can be bagged and discarded into general waste.

Suggested PPE Sequence*

Hand Hygiene must be performed when putting on and taking off PPE. PPE should be put on prior to entering, and removed after leaving, the patient treatment area.

Putting on PPE

- 1 Hand hygiene
- ↓
- 2 Gown
- ↓
- 3 Mask
- ↓
- 4 Eye protection
- ↓
- 5 Gloves

Taking off PPE

- 1 Gloves
- ↓
- 2 Hand hygiene
- ↓
- 3 Gown
- ↓
- 4 Hand hygiene
- ↓
- 5 Eye protection
- ↓
- 6 Hand hygiene
- ↓
- 7 Mask
- ↓
- 8 Hand hygiene

*this is an example of sequencing as per the current Australian guidelines.

25 August 2020

