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### Version control and change history

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<th>Date to</th>
<th>Amendment</th>
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<td>29/12/2021</td>
<td>Current</td>
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<td>2.6</td>
<td>28/10/2020</td>
<td>29/12/2021</td>
<td>Minor amendments to appendices</td>
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<td>2.5</td>
<td>21/09/2020</td>
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<td>2.4</td>
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<td>21/09/2020</td>
<td>Update PPE donning/doffing sequence in align with the NHMRC national guidelines</td>
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<td>17/08/2020</td>
<td>Update with minor amendments</td>
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Background

Training staff in the correct use of personal protective equipment (PPE) helps to minimise the potential for transmission of micro-organisms within the workplace, including COVID-19.

Depending on the work environment and task required, there are different types of PPE worn according to the risk. The scope of this document is primarily for respiratory protection.

This training tool instructs workers to don (put on) and doff (take off) their PPE safely and correctly, to ensure they are protected from exposure to respiratory droplets and aerosols, e.g. from when a person coughs or sneezes and from contaminated fomites (objects that may carry micro-organisms) within the environment.

This training tool aims to provide information regarding staff training in the correct use of PPE to standardise the particulate filter respirator (PFR) fit testing process and should be implemented in conjunction with the **SA Health Respiratory protection against airborne infectious diseases clinical guideline**. To provide information and guidance to workers and employers regarding respiratory protection against transmission of micro-organisms via the droplet and airborne route, refer to correct use of **Personal Protective Equipment section**.

This training tool provides resources for staff nominated as trainers by their organisation to utilise as part of the overall PPE training programme. The resource provides a standardised approach to training and competency assessment in the safe use of PPE. Refer to the **Appendix 1 PPE checklist**.

The tool is intended to be read in conjunction with other information available via SA Health and national webpages and resources relating to the following:

- **Infection control and personal protective equipment (PPE) advice**
- **Staff protection from infections**
- **Prevention and management of infection in healthcare settings**
- **Infections in community and healthcare settings**
- **Australian Guidelines for the Prevention and Control of Infection in Healthcare (2019)**.

**NOTE:** These resources have been developed within the context of a pandemic situation, however the key principles are applicable in all situations requiring the use of PPE.
Transmission of routes

Respiratory diseases are transmitted via the following routes, e.g.:

> **Airborne**: varicella (chicken pox), measles, tuberculosis and COVID-19

Airborne transmission may occur via particles containing infectious agents that remain Infective over time and distance. Small particle aerosols (often smaller than 5 microns) are created during breathing, talking, coughing or sneezing and secondarily by evaporation of larger droplets in conditions of low humidity. Aerosols containing infectious agents can be dispersed over long distances by air currents (e.g. ventilation or air conditioning systems) and inhaled by susceptible individuals who have not had any contact with the infectious person. These small particles can transmit infection into small airways of the respiratory tract.

> **Droplet**: influenza, respiratory syncytial virus

Droplet transmission can occur when an infected person coughs, sneezes or talks, and during certain procedures. **Droplets** are infectious particles larger than 5 microns in size. Respiratory droplets transmit infection when they travel directly from the respiratory tract of the infected person to susceptible mucosal surfaces (nasal, conjunctival or oral) of another person, generally over short distances. Droplet distribution is limited by the force of expulsion and gravity and is usually no more than 1 metre.

> **Contact**: spread occurs indirectly by touching contaminated surfaces.

Contact is the most common mode of transmission, and usually involves transmission by touch or via contact with blood or body substances. Contact may be direct or indirect:

- **direct** transmission occurs when infectious agents are transferred from one person to another—for example, a patient’s blood entering a healthcare worker’s body through an unprotected cut in the skin.
- **indirect** transmission involves the transfer of an infectious agent through a contaminated intermediate object or person

For additional information related to transmission routes, refer to page 21 of the Australia Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care (ACSQHC) *Australian Guidelines for the Prevention and Control of Infection in Health Care*.

Correct use of Personal Protective Equipment

> Workers at risk of exposure to airborne infectious disease should wear a **particulate filter respirator (PFR)**, e.g. P2/N95/D95 respirator or equivalent.

- **Particulate Filter Respirator**: means a disposable single use mask designed to protect the wearer from infectious aerosols.
  - in healthcare this may be generated directly from the patient or created during aerosol-generating procedures and or behaviours e.g. bronchoscopy, intubation and shouting.
  - in the community, disease transmission occurs when people are unwell and in close proximity.

> Workers who are risk of exposure to respiratory transmissible disease via droplets should wear a **surgical mask**.

> Workers at risk of exposure from contaminated surfaces will need to apply additional PPE, e.g. gowns and gloves.
For definitions of available respiratory protection devices, refer to the SA Health Respiratory protection against airborne infectious diseases clinical guideline.

Why should staff who are required to wear a PFR (or equivalent) undergo a fit test?

Fit testing is a validated method that determines the brand and size of respirator most suited to the individual’s face to achieve an adequate seal. There are two types of facial fit test - qualitative and quantitative:

Qualitative fit testing - is a pass/fail test that relies on the wearer’s ability to taste or smell a test agent. This type of test can be used on half-face respirators.

Quantitative fit testing – uses specialised equipment to measure how much air leaks out of the respirator, i.e. for a tight seal between the mask edges and the face.

Fit testing should occur:
1. prior to working in a high-risk area, e.g. residential care and healthcare facilities, disability services, or other agencies as directed by SA Health public health teams.
2. when there is a significant change in the wearer’s facial characteristics that could alter the facial seal of the respirator (e.g. facial surgery or significant change in body weight)
3. when there is a change to the brand and type of mask due to stock availability.

Why should staff perform a fit check when putting on a PFR?

Fit check (user seal check) is a procedure that must be performed every time a PFR is put on to ensure it is correctly applied. This includes exhaling and inhaling once a respirator is applied to check the seal. If leaks are detected, then the respirator must be readjusted until a successful fit check is achieved.

A fit check will be demonstrated during the fit test procedure.

PPE Training Learning Objectives

Concept/Skills to be Taught:

Infection Control and Personal Protective Equipment for workers including PFR fit checking.

Learning Objectives:

> Safe and correct use of personal protective equipment including use i.e. correct putting on and taking off sequence and performing a successful fit check.
> Basic risk assessment of controls required depending on exposure to persons suspected or confirmed to have a transmissible infection
> Signage (where applicable)
> Importance of hand hygiene before, during and after putting on and taking off PPE.
Training schedule

Training in the correct and safe use of PPE training can be delivered in two stages:

**Note** – if a PFR is to be worn, then stage three needs to be also completed by a qualified fit tester.

### Stage 1 Pre-requisite learning

> Complete Australian Government: Department of Health Infection Control Training – COVID-19

> View the following videos:

  **Note**: recommended to access using Google Chrome if not videos not loading

  - Personal Protective Equipment – A suite of educational videos created by Adelaide Health Simulation at the University of Adelaide ([https://vimeo.com/showcase/7131818](https://vimeo.com/showcase/7131818))
    - Contact, droplet and airborne precautions
    - Hand sanitising
    - Hand washing
  - [World Health Organization How to handwash? With soap and water](https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/how-to-handywash-with-soap-and-water)
  - [Detmold Medical – D95 Respirator](https://www.detmoldmedical.com)

> View the video by the Australia’s Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer, Prof Alison McMillian suitable to your work environment, demonstrating how to wear personal protective:

  - [Acute care worker](https://www.youtube.com)
  - [Aged care worker](https://www.youtube.com)
  - [Allied health professional](https://www.youtube.com)
  - [Disability support worker](https://www.youtube.com)
### Stage 2 – Practical Session
(face to face training including competency assessment)

Participants attend a practical training session arranged by the PPE Trainer as directed by their organisation.

In addition, the session could cover basic infection control principles for standard and contact precautions, and the principles for donning and doffing of PPE. However, these principles must be delivered by a person with a portfolio in infection prevention and control.

This session discusses the recommended safe use of PPE followed by practising donning (putting on) and doffing (taking off) to demonstrate proficiency using the Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Donning & Doffing Competency Tool, and can be demonstrated as a group session. The trainer may provide a copy of the Sequence for donning (putting on) and doffing (taking off) document (A3) poster for display in the workplace.

**Note** - Stage 2 must be completed before moving to Stage 3 - PFR Fit Testing (if applicable).

### Stage 3 – PFR Fit Testing

Worker should be allocated approximately 20-30 minutes to go through the fit testing procedure.

- Results should be entered into a database.
- A sticker or card identifying appropriate mask and a PPE donning and doffing checklist can be supplied to each person for reference ([Appendix 4 & 5](#)).
Related information

International

> World Health Organization (WHO) How to handwash poster, available via https://www.who.int/gpsc/5may/How_to_HandWash_Poster.pdf?ua=1
> World Health Organization (WHO) How to hand rub poster, available via https://www.who.int/gpsc/5may/How_to_HandRub_Poster.pdf?ua=1

National


State

> SA Health Personal protective equipment (PPE) selection policy guideline is available via: https://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/wps/wcm/connect/public+content/sa+health+internet/clinical+resources/clinical+programs+and+practice+guidelines/infectious+disease+control/coronavirus+disease+2019+information+for+health+professionals/infection+control+and+personal+protective+equipment+%28ppe%29+advice
SA Health Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) sequence poster is available via: https://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/wps/wcm/connect/public+content/sa+health+internet/clinical+resources/clinical+programs+and+practice+guidelines/infectious+disease+control/coronavirus+disease+2019+information+for+health+professionals/infection+control+and+personal+protective+equipment+%28ppe%29+advice

Videos

Personal Protective Equipment – A suite of educational videos created by Adelaide Health Simulation at the University of Adelaide (https://vimeo.com/showcase/7131818)
- Airborne Precautions (Donning and Doffing)
- Contact Precautions (Donning and Doffing)
- Droplet Precautions (Donning and Doffing)
- Hand Sanitising
- Hand Washing

How to handwash? With soap and water (World Health Organization)

How to handrub? With alcohol-based formulation (World Health Organization)

Cross-contamination while using disposable gloves (SA Health)

Donning and Fit Checking of Respirator (NSW Clinical Excellence Commission)

D95 Respirator – (Detmold)

Australia’s Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer, Prof Alison McMillian demonstrating how to wear personal protective equipment (PPE) in various settings:
- Acute care worker
- Aged care worker
- Allied health professional
- Disability support worker

Appendices

Appendix 1 - Trainer PPE donning and doffing training session plan template
Appendix 2 - PPE practical training session: Staff attendance record template
Appendix 3 - Personal protective Equipment (PPE) donning & doffing competency tool (to be signed by site manager)
Appendix 4 – Staff ID PPE lanyard template
Appendix 5 – Additional PPE lanyard template
For more information

Infection Control Service
Communicable Disease Control Branch
Telephone: 1300 232 272
www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/infectionprevention

OFFICIAL
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Appendix 1: Trainer checklist - PPE donning (put on) and doffing (taking off) training session plan template (setting up practical session)

For a well-planned session, consider using the checklist(s) below for ideas on how to facilitate the session and ensure that the content is available in advance for the potential attendees.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirements</th>
<th>Details / actions</th>
<th>Checklist confirmation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Audience</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>i.e. participants, staff groups, learning needs, language &amp; literacy skills of attendees, work requirements for PPE use</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Date of Session (s):</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Time of Session (s):</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Location</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Where the education will be held</td>
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<tr>
<td>Note – ensure that participants are advised of the location</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Room requirements e.g. size</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Note: during a pandemic there may be additional public health requirements</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>PPE Trainer(s)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Name(s):</td>
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<tr>
<td>Note: Depending on the number of participants add names to the training attendance record. For practical sessions 1:10 ensures all practice in use of PPE is able to be assessed adequately and completed in a timely manner</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Session details:</strong></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt; Number of sessions:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt; Number of attendees:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>&gt; Session length:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Note: Length is dependent on number of participants 1.5 – 2 hours may be required for presentation and the practical session afterwards</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>PPE training resources required, e.g.:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>&gt; Alcohol hand sanitiser</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt; Gowns (M, L, XL)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>&gt; Gloves (S, M, L, XL)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>&gt; Surgical masks</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt; Particulate filter respirators (PFRs)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>&gt; Eye protection – (goggles, safety glasses or face shields)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>&gt; Waste container for disposal of PPE (additional container may be required for non-disposable eye protection)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>&gt; Detergent/disinfectant wipes for surface and equipment cleaning</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Audio visual equipment</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>For PowerPoint presentation &amp; displaying training videos</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>&gt; Computer/laptop and projector</td>
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<tr>
<td>&gt; Internet access</td>
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<th><strong>Printed resources / kits</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>1. <strong>Training Tool</strong> for the Correct Use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. PPE practical training session staff attendance record</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Donning and Doffing Checklist</td>
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<td>4. <strong>Posters</strong></td>
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<td>&gt; <a href="#">Sequence for donning (putting on) and doffing (taking off) Personal Protective Equipment</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>&gt; <a href="#">WHO How to Handwash</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt; <a href="#">WHO How to use Handrub</a></td>
</tr>
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<td>&gt; <a href="#">Appendix 4: Lanyard card – PPE donning and doffing Sequence</a></td>
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<td>5. <strong>NHII resources</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>6. <strong>PowerPoint</strong> education session provided on the day (if applicable)</td>
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Appendix 2: PPE practical training session - staff attendance record template

Date: _______________  PPE Trainer: __________________  Facility: __________________

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session (please circle):</th>
<th>Initial PPE Training</th>
<th>PFR Fit Check Training</th>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Name / Payroll No.</th>
<th>Work Area</th>
<th>Participant’s signature</th>
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</table>
Appendix 3: Personal protective equipment (PPE) donning (putting on) & doffing (taking off) competency audit tool

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name:</th>
<th>Role:</th>
<th>Facility:</th>
<th>Audit date:</th>
</tr>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Compliance</th>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Action performed correctly?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### Donning (putting on) PPE

1. **Perform hand hygiene**
   - Wash hands
   - **OR**
   - Use an alcohol-based hand rub
   - **Y / N**

2. **Put on a disposable gown**
   - Ensure the gown fully covers the torso and neck to knees, arms to end of wrist and wrap the around the back
   - Fasten / tie at the back of neck and waist
   - **Y / N**

3. **Put on a surgical mask or PFR and perform PFR fit check**
   - If wearing a surgical mask, position over the nose and mouth, then chin. Mould the nose piece into the mask.
   - Secure ties or ear loops
   - If wearing a PFR position according to training and manufacturers’ instructions
   - Perform fit check
     - Head movements (Up/down and side to side)
     - Cup hands around edges of PFR, inhale and exhale deeply
   - If air escaping reposition mask and recheck for air leaks
   - **Y / N**

4. **Put on eye protection**
   - Place over face and eyes (and over prescription glasses if worn)
   - Adjust to fit.
   - **Note** - Prescription glasses are not considered as eye protection
   - **Y / N**

5. **Put on gloves**
   - Fit gloves over the cuffs ensuring the gown sleeves are covered by the glove.
   - **Y / N**

6. **PPE Check**
   - Check all items of PPE are correctly in place
   - Check integrity of PPE
   - **Note** - Do not touch mask or eye protection again once PPE check has been completed
   - **Y / N**

### Doffing (taking off) PPE

7. **Remove gloves**
   - Carefully grasp outside with opposite gloved hand, peel off
   - Hold removed glove in the gloved hand
   - Carefully slide fingers of ungloved hand under the remaining glove at wrist
   - Peel glove off over first glove
   - Discard gloves in waste container.
   - **Y / N**

8. **Perform hand hygiene**
   - Wash hands
   - **OR**
   - Use an alcohol-based hand rub
   - **Y / N**

9. **Remove gown**
   - Undo fasteners or ties
   - Pull away from neck and shoulders, touching inside of the gown only
   - Turn gown inside out, away from clothing
   - Fold or roll into a bundle and discard in waste container
   - **Note** - Eye protection is to remain on at this stage
   - **Y / N**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Step</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Y / N</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>Perform hand hygiene&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;Wash hands&lt;br&gt;<strong>OR</strong>&lt;br&gt;Use an alcohol-based hand rub</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>Remove eye protection&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;Do not touch the front surfaces&lt;br&gt;Handle by head band or side arms&lt;br&gt;Place in designated container for reprocessing or in waste container&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;<strong>Note</strong> - Remove outside the person’s room</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.</td>
<td>Perform hand hygiene&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;Wash hands&lt;br&gt;<strong>OR</strong>&lt;br&gt;Use an alcohol-based hand rub</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.</td>
<td>Remove mask / respirator&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;Do not touch the front of the mask.&lt;br&gt;Mask is removed by grasping the earloops / ties without touching the front as per current SA Health information.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.</td>
<td>Perform hand hygiene&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;Wash hands&lt;br&gt;<strong>OR</strong>&lt;br&gt;Use an alcohol-based hand rub</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Competent:**

**Trainer details**

- Trainer Name:
- Trainer Signature:
- Date:
| Donning Sequence | Doffing Sequence | Donning Sequence | Doffing Sequence | Donning Sequence | Doffing Sequence | Donning Sequence | Doffing Sequence | Donning Sequence | Doffing Sequence | Donning Sequence | Doffing Sequence | Donning Sequence | Doffing Sequence |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| * Eye protection| * Worn over prescription glasses | * Worn over prescription glasses | * Worn over prescription glasses | * Worn over prescription glasses | * Worn over prescription glasses | * Worn over prescription glasses | * Worn over prescription glasses | * Worn over prescription glasses | * Worn over prescription glasses | * Worn over prescription glasses | * Worn over prescription glasses | * Worn over prescription glasses | * Worn over prescription glasses | * Worn over prescription glasses |

Appendix 4: PPE donning and doffing key reminder lanyard card template

- Hand hygiene
- Gown
- Mask
- Gloves
- Check
- Eye protection
- Worn over prescription glasses
## Appendix 4: PPE donning and doffing key reminder lanyard card template

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date:</th>
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### KEY POINTS
- Always check what level of PPE is required for the task you are undertaking.
- Check with your buddy when donning (putting on) PPE.
- PPE must remain in place and be worn correctly for the duration of work in potentially contaminated areas.
- Do not touch or adjust PPE when you are in a potentially contaminated area.
- Doff (taking off) PPE slowly and carefully.
- PPE removal should follow the sequence that prevents self-contamination.

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Appendix 5: Additional key reminder lanyard card template

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**KEY POINTS**
- Prescription glasses are not considered as eye protection
- Do not touch or adjust mask or eye protection once PPE check has been completed
- Consider using a staff member ‘buddy’ to assist with correct donning (putting on) and doffing (taking off)

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