

Proper Glove Use as part of Personal Protective Equipment

Wearing gloves does not replace the need to perform proper hand hygiene. Hand hygiene must be performed both before and after wearing gloves.

Why wear gloves?

- reduce soiling of healthcare workers' hands with blood, body fluids; and
- reduce the risk of spreading germs to patients, the environment, or healthcare workers.

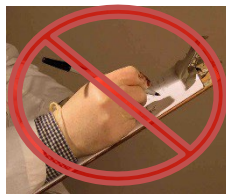
When should I wear gloves?

- before contact or potential contact with blood, body fluids, mucous membranes or non-intact skin; and
- before contact with equipment or environment soiled with blood, body fluids.

When should I NOT wear gloves?

When there is no expected contact with mucous membranes, non-intact skin and when there is no assessed risk ([PCRA](#)) of exposure to blood and body fluids, e.g.,:

- taking blood pressure, temperature, or pulse;
- bathing, dressing or feeding the patient (unless there is contact with blood or body fluids);
- phoning, charting, giving oral medications, replacing linens or assisting a patient with ambulation.



Important points

- Hand hygiene must be performed before taking gloves from their container.
- **Hand hygiene** must be performed after glove removal since hands are considered contaminated even if gloves have been worn.
 - Micro-tears can be present in gloves.
- **Change** gloves and perform hand hygiene between each patient.
- **Change** gloves and perform hand hygiene between procedures on the same patient.
- Do not double glove for routine care.
- Do not wash gloves or use alcohol-based hand rub on them.



Adapted from: Central Zone Glove Fact Sheet, July 2012

If you have any questions or comments contact IPC at ipcsurvstdadmin@ahs.ca.



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Original date: March 2015
Revised date: December 2023