



Using Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

The type of PPE used will vary based upon the dental procedure. Also, the combination of PPE selected will affect the sequence of donning and removal. Wash your hands immediately after removing PPE. If hands become visibly contaminated during PPE removal, wash hands before continuing to remove PPE. The following sequences are suggestions for limiting cross contamination in the dental operatory.

Safe Work Practices To Protect Yourself and Limit the Spread of Contamination

- Keep hands away from face
- Change gloves when torn or heavily contaminated
- Limit surfaces touched
- Wash your hands

DONNING PPE

Protective Clothing

- Select appropriate type and size
- Fasten all snaps or ties



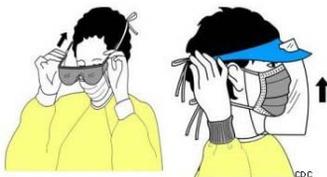
Mask

- Place over nose, mouth and chin
- Adjust the flexible nose piece over nose bridge
- Secure on head with ties or elastic



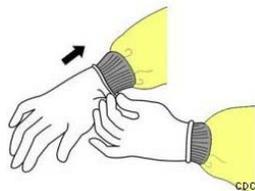
Protective Eyewear

- Position protective eyewear over eyes and secure to the head using the ear pieces or headband



Gloves

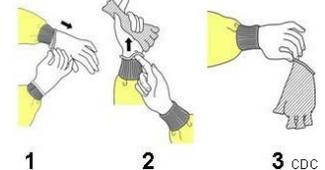
- Don gloves last (after handwashing)
- Select correct type and size
- Insert hands into gloves
- Extend gloves over protective clothing cuffs



REMOVING PPE

Gloves

- Grasp outside edge near wrist and peel away from hand, turning glove inside-out
- Hold in opposite gloved hand
- Slide ungloved finger under the wrist of the remaining glove
- Peel off from inside, creating a bag for both gloves
- Discard appropriately



Protective Eyewear

- Grasp ear or head pieces with ungloved hands and lift away from face
- Set aside for cleaning/disinfection or dispose of appropriately



Protective Clothing

- Unfasten snaps or ties
- Remove protective clothing away from the body
- Discard if disposable; if reusable place in appropriate laundry container



Mask

- Remove from face by only touching the ties or elastic bands
- Discard appropriately
- Wash your hands



References

- CDC. Guidelines for infection control in dental health-care settings – 2003. MMWR 2003; 52 (No. RR-17):1–66.
- CDC. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) in Healthcare Settings. Available at www.cdc.gov/HAI/prevent/ppe.html. Accessed Aug 2011.
- Miller CH, Palenik CJ. Protective Barriers. In: Miller CH, Palenik DJ, eds. *Infection Control and Management of Hazardous Materials for the Dental Team*, 4th ed St. Louis: Mosby; 2009:115–134.