

PPE Observer Standard Work

Role: Trained observers serve as a support to clinical staff providing care to highly infectious patients. The primary role is to monitor the safe practice and use of personal protective equipment. It is the responsibility of the trained observer to mitigate donning and/or doffing errors before a potential exposure occurs.

During PPE Observation	At COVID Rule-Out or COVID Discharge	Throughout Shift	End of Shift
Observe PPE Donning & Doffing	Isolation Cart Return	Miscellaneous Activities	Clean Area
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Manage flow of materials and staff in and out of room to ensure doors opened for minimal time and that only one person is doffing at a time. No other equipment should enter room at that time; remind all staff to disinfect equipment or materials leaving the room. If there is an anteroom, monitor anteroom doors to ensure both are not open at the same time. 2. Observe and coach staff, visitors to ensure correct PPE donning, and doffing technique according to the Inpatient PPE Donning/Doffing Document to prevent cross- and self-contamination. May need to assist direct care provider with unsnapping or untying the back of gowns. 3. For major breaches of PPE, i.e., room entry without PPE or respiratory protection breach during patient care, provide coaching, submit a SRS, and call the Blood and Bodily Fluid hotline at 919-684-8115 to report exposure. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Return materials on top of isolation cart to correct location. 2. Place 2-way radios and signs in isolation cart. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Confirm correct isolation sign(s) are posted and visible. 2. Perform and document airborne tissue test every 24 hours if a negative pressure room is occupied. 3. Ensure 2-way radios are charged, operational and on the correct channel. Establish communication plan if 2-way radios are unavailable. 4. Clean high touch areas every 12 hours and PRN (e.g., PPE Cart, surfaces, door handles). Remind staff to do the same in patient and anterooms. 5. Assist with PAPR management, i.e., disinfect PAPR prior to doffing, help set up bags (include name & date) for clinical staff for reusable mask and PAPR reuse. 6. Monitor PPE supply in the PPE carts and restock from central supply cart, as needed. 7. Clock in/out with the appropriate API code. You may add "PPE observer" in the comment box. (DUH 1699; DRH 2799; DRAH 6000) 8. Escalate and communicate to unit leaders any new questions or issues that arise. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dispose of used paper bags, plastic bags, and disposable clear face shields at the end of shift (not for 24-hour residents). 2. Help RN/HCW with full trash removal from rooms ensuring trash bins remain near the exit both inside and outside the room. 3. Ensure hand sanitizer, hand soap and disinfectant wipes are available for the next shift inside patient room, anteroom, and outside room if possible.

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PPE observers:

- Should maintain current knowledge of most recently published guidance on Duke Coronavirus webpage to help educate and reinforce proper infection prevention techniques for staff/visitors, which include maintaining donning/doffing and clean/dirty spaces, and encourage bundling of care and use of technology to promote minimum exposure.
 - Should remind staff prior to exiting room to ensure room environment safety and that items are within patient reach (i.e., call bell, urinal, personal items) to avoid unplanned or unnecessary room re-entry.
 - Should not participate in direct patient care, transport patients or labs, or perform other errands off the unit when observations are needed.
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Additional resources:

Airborne Infection Isolation Room Tissue Test Log for Negative Air Pressure form (found on the Duke OESO webpage)

https://www.safety.duke.edu/sites/default/files/Airborne_Isolation_Room_Instructions.pdf

Duke Health COVID-19 Resource Page

<https://covid-19.dukehealth.org/>

Inpatient PPE Donning/Doffing video

<https://cepd.warpwire.com/w/gR4AAA/>
