

Lesson Details

Applies to:	Trainers responsible for training staff who work with microfibre reusable gowns.
Purpose:	To provide instructions to ensure that reusable microfibre gowns are donned (put on) and doffed (taken off) following IPAC and Occupational Health and Safety best practices.

Audience	Healthcare providers, Housekeeping staff
Total Duration of Delivery to Staff	20 minutes
Location	Unit
Equipment Required	Gowns; laundry hampers (optional)
Resources Required	Teaching package: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Donning and Doffing PPE: Droplet and Contact</i> poster • <i>Donning and Doffing PPE: Droplet and Contact with Reusable Gown</i> poster

Learning Objectives

- Describe the correct procedure for donning and doffing reusable gowns.
- Determine where and how to get clean microfibre reusable gowns and where to store them until they are used for patient care.
- Describe how to store soiled gowns safely until sending to the Linen Distribution Area to transport for cleaning.

Lesson Plan

SECTION 1 – Background

Note: Depending on your audience, you may wish to pare down the background information (e.g., non-clinical staff may not need all of the safety level ratings information).

Why is Island Health using Reusable Gowns?

Since the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic, there has been a desire and need to source other level 2 gowns for routine and additional precautions. Microfibre reusable gowns (level 2)* are approved as the alternative gown within Island Health.

Healthcare workers wear gowns while performing routine practices to prevent exposure to blood and body fluids. Gowns provide additional precautions to prevent potential contamination of healthcare workers' clothing and transmission of microorganisms between themselves, their patients and the environment.

Gowns are rated by levels of safety:

Level 1 is for standard isolation that does not involve fluid contact.

* **Level 2** protection is a semi-permeable product resistant to fluid penetration, but is not waterproof. It is different to level 3 only by the hydrostatic pressure test. **Level 2 protection for additional precautions is in line with the current RFP process for provincial gown selection.**

Level 3 protection is a semi permeable product resistant to fluid penetration but is not waterproof. Withstands higher hydrostatic pressure – equivalent to requirements within the operating room.

Level 4. This product is fluid resistant which would be for high-risk infectious microorganisms, such as Ebola.

American National Standards Institute/Association of the Advancement of Medical Instrumentation (ANSI/AAMI) Recommendations: Liquid Barrier Protection: 4 standard tests to evaluate the barrier effectiveness of protective gowns; includes an impact penetration test, hydrostatic pressure test, synthetic blood penetration resistance, and blood borne pathogens penetration resistance.

SECTION 2 – Donning and Doffing the Microfibre Reusable Gown

Ensure staff member is aware of the points listed below.

At the beginning of the shift

- Ensure staff have an appropriate supply of clean microfibre gowns at the isolation cart/station.
- Ensure there is clear separation – 3 feet (1 metre) – between clean gowns and soiled items.
- Remind staff to fasten ties at the neck and waist with a bow (not a knot).

Using PPE

Donning microfibre reusable gowns is the same process as donning any other gown, with ties secured at the neck and back of waist.

- If the staff member is unsure of the donning procedure, review the **Donning and Doffing PPE: Droplet and Contact** poster for the correct sequence (see the *Resources* section of this document).

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- Inform staff member of the **Donning PPE: Droplet and Contact with Reusable Gown** video (see the *Resources* section of this document).

Doffing the microfibre reusable gown is a slightly different sequence than the disposable gown, as the gloves and gown are removed independently of each other with a hand decontamination in between the steps.

- Demonstrate correct doffing procedure.
- Review the **Doffing PPE: Droplet and Contact with Reusable Gown** poster for the correct sequence (see the *Resources* section of this document).
- Inform staff member they can review the **Doffing PPE: Droplet and Contact with Reusable Gown** video (see the *Resources* section of this document).
- Remind staff to carefully untie the bow at the neck when doffing the gown; do not pull over your head. This will ensure that staff do not contaminate their head and face during doffing, help laundry staff during the cleaning process and prevent potential damage to the gown.

SECTION 3 – Healthcare Team Responsibilities

Inform the staff member of the healthcare team’s responsibility to remove soiled linen bags that are 3/4 full and follow these steps:

1. Tie the bag securely.
2. Take it to the soiled storage area.
3. Put a new bag in the hamper.

Following these steps will help, by:

- Ensuring timely laundering of the microfibre reusable gowns.
- Reducing the potential bioburden and risk of cross contamination within the clinical areas.
- Supporting safe work practices.

SECTION 4 – Review

- Refer to this document’s learning objectives with the staff member; have they all been met?

Resources

Posters (Print these and place in Teaching Package)

- [Donning and Doffing PPE: Droplet and Contact](#)
- [Donning and Doffing PPE: Droplet and Contact with Reusable Gown \(poster\)](#)

Links:

- [Donning PPE: Droplet and Contact with Reusable Gown](#) video
- [Doffing PPE: Droplet and Contact with Reusable Gown](#) video