



# Personal protective equipment (PPE)

LCC IPC Guidance

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## **Importance of personal protective equipment (PPE)**

### **What is PPE?**

PPE is equipment which protects you from clients' blood, body fluids, secretions or excretions. Examples of PPE include gloves, aprons, eye and face protection.

### **Why wear PPE?**

PPE is important as it protects the client and yourself from the transmission of harmful microorganisms, such as norovirus, MRSA, E.coli, etc.

### **Gloves**

- Gloves must be worn for invasive procedures, contact with sterile areas, open skin or mucous membranes, and all activities that have been assessed as carrying a risk of exposure to blood, body fluids, secretions or excretions, or to sharp or contaminated equipment.
- Gloves must be worn as single-use items.
- They must be put on immediately before an episode of client contact or treatment and removed as soon as the activity is completed.
- Gloves must be changed between caring for different clients, and between different care or treatment activities for the same client.

### **Aprons**

- A disposable plastic apron must be worn if there is a risk that clothing may be exposed to blood, body fluids, secretions or excretions.
- Disposable plastic aprons must be worn as single-use items, for one procedure or one episode of direct client care and then disposed of correctly.

### **Masks & goggles**

- Masks and goggles must be worn where there is a risk of blood, body fluids, secretions or excretions splashing into the face and eyes.
- Respiratory protective equipment, for example a particulate filter mask, must be used when clinically indicated, but are rarely required in social care.