

Screening PPE Breach and Screening Staff Exposure

Revised: Oct. 24, 2014 11 a.m.

Definition of Screening PPE Breach:

- A breach in Screening PPE is a mistake that occurs during the removal of the equipment that results in potentially contaminated fluids touching the skin or mucous membranes of the staff.
- If there was no potential for contact with the patient or the body fluids of the patient, then no further action is required.

Types of exposures to Ebola patient:

- Blood or body fluid contact with broken skin, eyes, nose, mouth, other mucous membranes.
- Percutaneous injury with known or potentially contaminated sharp.
- Contact with blood or body fluid over an area of apparently intact skin.

If an exposure occurs:

- Immediately notify the “observer”. If the clinical screening has not been completed, it is imperative that the observer finish the screening as soon as possible so that the appropriate level of risk to staff can be determined.
- Normal PPE Doffing protocol should be followed in the room, or ante room, if available. After doffing, exit the room.
- Proceed to a nearby room with a sink and/or shower if available. Remove all clothing and don gown.
- Wash contaminated skin and wounds thoroughly. Using gloved hand, pour chlorhexidine and a small amount of water onto area and clean for a minimum of 20 minutes. Massage deep wounds gently.
- Apply a bandage if needed.
- If the exposure is to the eye, mouth, or nose, irrigate with water or sterile saline solution for a minimum of 20 minutes. If there is exposure to the eyes, use eyewash station if available. If one is not available, rinse with copious amount of water for 20 minutes. **DO NOT use betadine or chlorhexidine scrub in or near the eye.**
- The “observer” should notify the Employee Health Director (979-574-3072), Safe Choice case manager and Infection Prevention and Control practitioner.
- Initiate first aid if needed.
- If a shower is available onsite, take a shower with soap and water.
- If a shower is not available onsite, Employee Health will direct you to the appropriate location.
- Follow the appropriate documentation process for employee exposure.

REFERENCES:

Screening PPE protocol