

Blood-borne Pathogens: Personal Protective Equipment

Department: Chemical and General Safety

Program: Blood-borne Pathogens

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Authority: ES&H Manual, Chapter 46, Blood-borne Pathogens

All employees using personal protective equipment (PPE) to protect from blood-borne pathogens must observe the following precautions:

- Wash hands immediately or as soon as feasible after removing gloves or other PPE.
- Remove PPE after it becomes contaminated and before leaving the work area.
- Wear appropriate gloves when it is reasonably anticipated that there may be hand contact with blood or other potentially infectious materials (OPIM), and when handling or touching contaminated items or surfaces; replace gloves if torn, punctured or contaminated, or if their ability to function as a barrier is compromised.
- Utility gloves may be decontaminated for reuse if their integrity is not compromised; discard utility gloves if they show signs of cracking, peeling, tearing, puncturing, or deterioration.
- Never wash or decontaminate disposable gloves for reuse.
- Wear appropriate face and eye protection when splashes, sprays, spatters, or droplets of blood or OPIM pose a hazard to the eye, nose, or mouth.
- Remove immediately or as soon as feasible any garment contaminated by blood or OPIM, in such a way as to avoid contact with the outer surface.

Used, disposable PPE that is potentially contaminated with blood or OPIM must be disposed of in red bags to be obtained from the Medical Department or subcontractor as appropriate. Red bags must be secured by tying or with an adequate closure device and taken to the Medical Department for disposal.