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| Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) COVID-19Document Margins = .5'' top/bottom/left/right; .3'' header/footerFont = 18pt Arial BoldAll other font = 12pt Arial Column 1 width = 3''  Column 2 width = 2'' | **Last Revision:** | September 2020 |
| **Last Reviewed:** | September 2020 |
| **Applies to the following THA Group of Companies:** | * Island Health Care * Island Hospice * Independent Life at home * RightHealth® * THA Services |
| **Included in the following THA Manuals:** | [Policy & Procedure Manual]  [Section #] |

### PURPOSE

This policy is to document our process for minimizing the spread of COVID-19 through the proper use of Personal Protective Equipment. In addition to our standard Infection Control Program and PPE policy, this policy provides specific, detailed guidelines amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.

### POLICY

THA Group refers to the CDC website for regular updates as new information is available.

### PROCEDURE

The type of PPE used will vary based on the level of precautions required, such as standard and contact, droplet or airborne infection isolation precautions. The procedure for putting on PPE should be tailored to the specific type of PPE. You must also keep hands away from your face, limit surfaces touched, change gloves when torn or heavily contaminated and perform hand hygiene.

Sequence for putting on PPE should be as follows:

1. Gown
   1. Fully cover torso from neck to knees, arms to end of wrists, and wrap around the back.
   2. Fasten in back of next and waist
2. Mask or Respirator
   1. Secure ties or elastic bands at middle of head and neck
   2. Fit flexible band to nose bridge.
   3. Fit snug to face and below chin
   4. Fit-check respirator
3. Goggles or Face Shield
   1. Place over face and eyes and adjust to fit
4. Gloves
   1. Extend to cover wrist of isolation gown

PPE should be safely removed without contaminating your clothing, skin, or mucous membranes with potentially infectious materials. You should request your patient to leave a waste container outside the door where PPE can be removed immediately leaving the patients home and before entering your personal vehicle. Perform hand hygiene between steps if hands become contaminated and immediately after removing all PPE.

Sequence for removing PPE should be as follows:

1. Gown and Gloves
   1. Gown front and sleeves and the outside of gloves are contaminated!
      1. If your hands get contaminated during gown or glove removal, immediately wash your hands or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
   2. Grasp the gown in the front and pull away from your body so that the ties break, touching outside of gown only with gloved hands.
   3. While removing the gown, fold or roll the gown inside-out into a bundle.
   4. As you are removing gown, peel off your gloves at the same time, only touching the inside of the gloves and gown with your bare hands. Place the gown and gloves into a waste container.
2. Goggles or Face Shield
   1. Outside of goggles or face shield are contaminated!
      1. If your hands get contaminated during goggle or face shield removal, immediately wash your hands or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
   2. Remove goggles or face shield from the back by lifting head band and without touching the front of the goggles or face shield.
   3. If the items is reusable, place in designated receptable for reprocessing. Otherwise, discard in a waste container.
3. Mask or Respirator
   1. Front of mask/respirator is contaminated – Do NOT touch!
      1. If your hands get contaminated during mask or respirator removal, immediately wash your hands or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
      2. Grasp bottom ties or elastics of mask/respirator, then the ones at the top, and remove without touching the front.
      3. Discard into the waste container
4. WASH HANDS OR USE AN ALCOHOL-BASED HAND SANITIZER IMMEDIATELY AFTER REMOVING ALL PPE.

