

November 2021 S.A.F.E. Newsletter

Personal Protective Equipment

PPE in the Hospital



When working on the floor with patients, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is essential. Depending on the health issue of the patient, the only protection may be a surgical mask, eye protection and to wash your hands before you enter the room and as you leave the room.

When working with TB patients, you will need to wear eye protection and a N95 respirator. In order to wear a N95 respirator you must have been fit tested by OH&S. Only wear the respirator you are approved to wear....and do not forget to wash your hands. If you have facial hair, you may be certified by Occupational Health and Safety to wear the powered air-purifying respirator, CAPR or Versaflo.

When working with COVID, MRSA or C-diff Patients, you will need to wear:

- Gloves - When removing gloves be sure to change them between patients and tasks and remove them promptly after use and before touching non-contaminated items and surfaces. Hands should be washed when gloves are removed.
- Gown-always tied in the back. Remove the gown remembering that the outside is dirty and the inside (closest to your body) is clean.
- Surgical Mask for MRSA or C-diff Patients and a N95 for COVID patients – never touch the outside of the mask when removing.
- Eye Protection – required when working with patients

Be sure to always wear closed toed shoes when working in the hospital to protect your feet.

PPE with Chemotherapy Administration and Spills

Hazardous Drugs (HD)

Surgical Mask – required at all times when on UAMS campus.

Gloves- Wear appropriate chemo gloves for administration of chemotherapy to prevent skin contamination with cytotoxic drugs. Must meet American society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) standard D6978 or its successor.

Gowns- Wear chemo gowns for administration to prevent clothing contamination. These gowns must resist permeability by HDs (the hazardous drugs cannot penetrate the material).

Eye Protection – at all times when dealing with patients.

CHEMOTHERAPY SPILLS:

- Personal Protective Equipment provides worker protection to reduce exposure to HD aerosols and residues.
 - Gowns
 - Gloves
 - Eye protection
- The additional required PPE for a HD spill is: Niosh certified N95 respirator OR PAPR (powered air-purifier respirator). <OSHA standard 29 CFR 1910.134>
 - Attending to HD spills larger than what can be contained with a spill kit.
 - There is a known or suspected airborne exposure to powders or vapors.

The HD section is from the USP General Chapter <800>
Reprinted from USP 40—NF 35, Second Supplement (2017)

PPE in Labs



The correct PPE you need depends on the task you are undertaking in labs. Put documented requirements in writing, keep a copy, and post it in the lab so everyone knows what is expected of them. When leaving a lab remove your PPE.

Mask – required anytime you are on campus and around others.

Eye and Face Protection, are required if any of these hazards exist:

Flying objects or particles	Moving or dangling objects
Dusts and mists	Molten metal
Liquid chemicals	Acids or caustic liquids
Chemical gases or vapors	Glare
Injurious radiation	Electrical flash
Combination of any of the above.	

Hand Protection is required if any of these hazards exist:

Working with infectious items	Skin absorption of harmful substances
Severe cuts or lacerations	Severe abrasions
Punctures	Chemical burns
Thermal burns or harmful temperature extremes	

Hearing Protection must be worn when a noise exposure of 85 dBA is exceeded for any eight-hour time-period.

Foot Protection, fully encapsulating footwear, are ALWAYS required, when entering a lab.

Clothing – lab coats are required and legs must be covered when working in a lab.