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Coronavirus Infection Prevention and Control Guidelines

Ambulance Transfer

When a suspect case of Coronavirus/ respiratory tract infection patient has to be transported, the following precautions should be taken by ambulance personnel accompanying the patient:

On arrival to the healthcare facility from where the patient is to be transferred

A. Decontaminate hands (alcohol gel/rub) (Fig 1, 2)

B. Don Personal Protective Equipment (PPE): (Fig 3)

A patient requiring Aerosol Generating Precaution: N95 mask with respirator, gloves, long sleeved fluid repellent gown and goggles (Annexure donning PPE)

C. Inform the hospital of the admission/transfer of a potentially infectious person

Before leaving the house/healthcare facility

- Request patient to wear a surgical mask (if tolerated) and advise on Respiratory Hygiene and Cough Etiquette
- A patient with suspected or confirmed CoV should not travel with other patients

In ambulance

- Remove gloves, decontaminate hands and put on new gloves before touching the patient and before a clean or aseptic procedure, if required. Wearing gloves does not replace hand hygiene.
- Use single use or single patient use medical equipment where possible
- Use disposable linen if available

Arrival to the referral hospital

- Before the patient leaves the ambulance ensure arrangements are in place for receipt of the patient
- Transfer patient to the care of hospital staff
- After transfer of patient remove PPE (Fig 4)
- Perform hand hygiene

Before ambulance is used again

- **Cleaning and disinfecting** (PPE as outlined above should be worn while cleaning)

Surfaces (stretcher, chair, door handles etc) should be cleaned with a freshly prepared 1% hypochlorite solution or equivalent

- **Laundry**

Place reusable blankets in a bag, then put into a laundry bag and send for laundering clearly labelling it so that person in the laundry wears appropriate PPE before handling or autoclaves it before opening.

- **Medical equipment**

Follow manufacturer's instructions for cleaning/disinfecting reusable equipment (see guidelines)

- **Management of waste**

All masks and any waste contaminated with blood or body fluid (including respiratory secretions) should be disposed of as infectious waste in yellow bag

- **Management of sharps** – per Standard Precautions
- **Management of spillages of blood and body fluids** – per Standard Precautions

In the ambulance, if the driver's chamber is not separate, driver should also use PPE

Fig 1 Hand Hygiene: Moments of Hand Hygiene

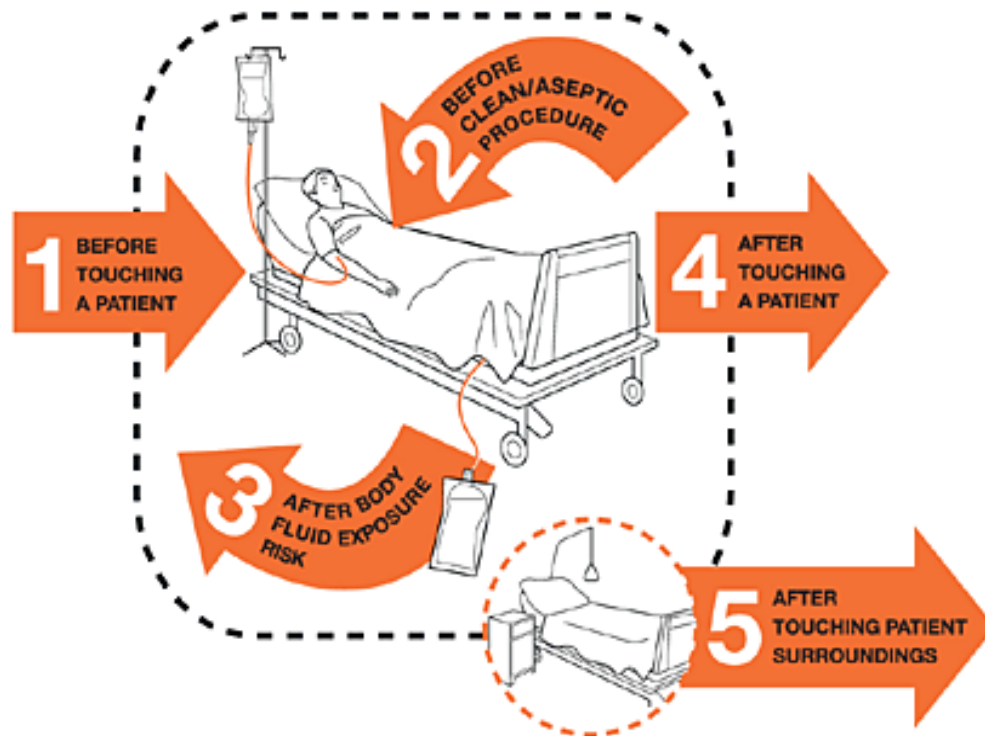
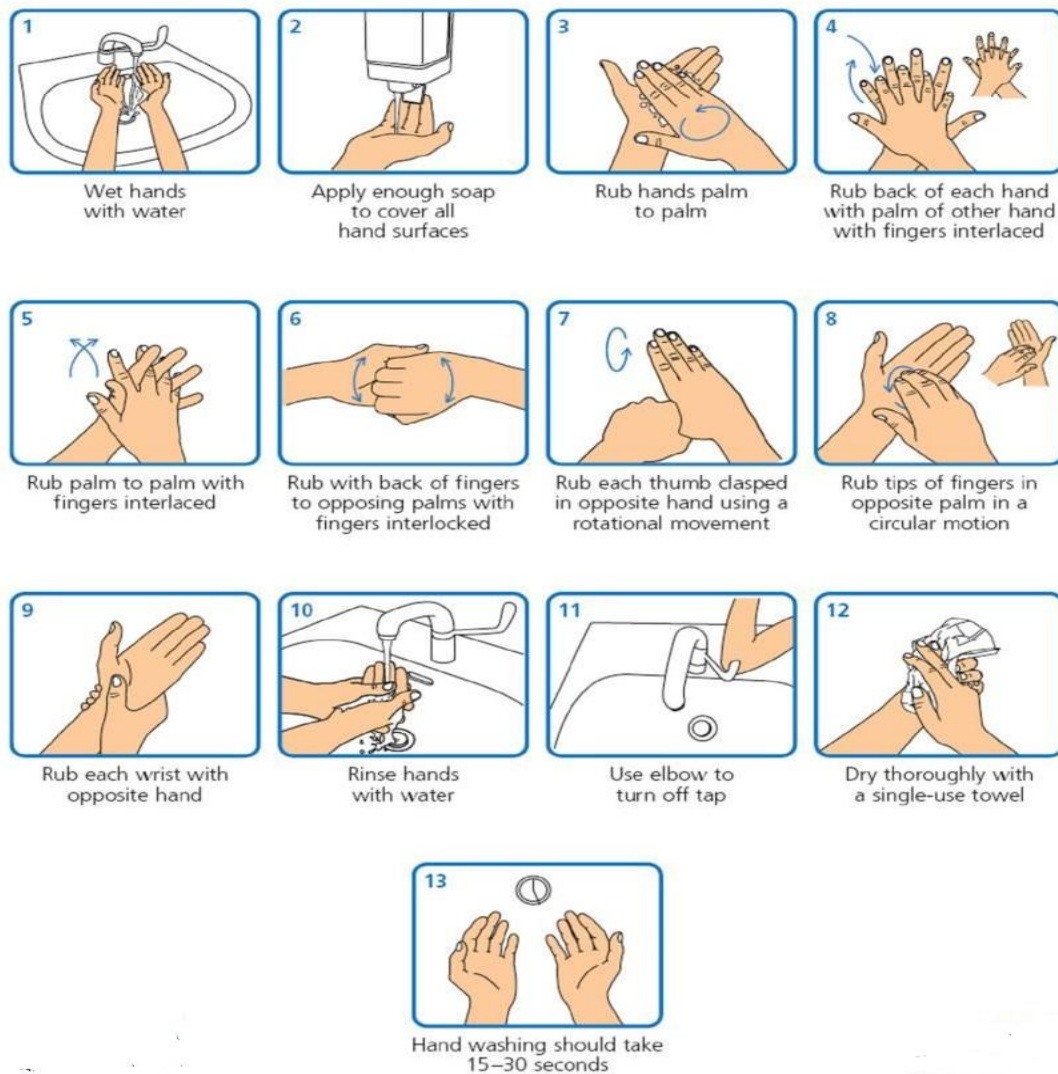


Fig 2 Steps of Hand Hygiene

Hand-washing technique with soap and water



Steps 3-9 are same while using hand rub

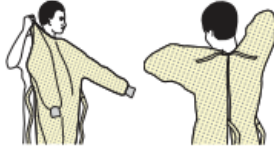
Fig 3 Donning procedures should be diligently & carefully followed as given below.

**SEQUENCE FOR PUTTING ON
PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)**

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 and removing PPE should be tailored to the specific type of PPE.


1. GOWN

- Fully cover torso from neck to knees, arms to end of wrists, and wrap around the back
- Fasten in back of neck and waist




2. MASK OR RESPIRATOR

- Secure ties or elastic bands at middle of head and neck
- Fit flexible band to nose bridge
- Fit snug to face and below chin
- Fit-check respirator




3. GOGGLES OR FACE SHIELD

- Place over face and eyes and adjust to fit



4. GLOVES

- Extend to cover wrist of isolation gown



**USE SAFE WORK PRACTICES TO PROTECT YOURSELF
AND LIMIT THE SPREAD OF CONTAMINATION**

- Keep hands away from face
- Limit surfaces touched
- Change gloves when torn or heavily contaminated
- Perform Hand Hygiene

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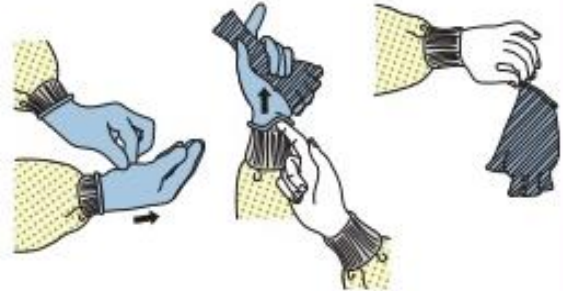
Fig 4: Doffing procedures should be diligently & carefully followed as given below:

HOW TO SAFELY REMOVE PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE) EXAMPLE 1

There are a variety of ways to safely remove PPE without contaminating your clothing, skin, or mucous membranes with potentially infectious materials. Here is one example. **Remove all PPE before exiting the patient room** except a respirator, if worn. Remove the respirator **after** leaving the patient room and closing the door. Remove PPE in the following sequence:

1. GLOVES

- Outside of gloves are contaminated!
- If your hands get contaminated during glove removal, immediately wash your hands or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer
- Using a gloved hand, grasp the palm area of the other gloved hand and peel off first glove
- Hold removed glove in gloved hand
- Slide fingers of ungloved hand under remaining glove at wrist and peel off second glove over first glove
- Discard gloves in a waste container



2. GOGGLES OR FACE SHIELD

- Outside of goggles or face shield are contaminated!
- If your hands get contaminated during goggle or face shield removal, immediately wash your hands or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer
- Remove goggles or face shield from the back by lifting head band or ear pieces
- If the item is reusable, place in designated receptacle for reprocessing. Otherwise, discard in a waste container



3. GOWN

- Gown front and sleeves are contaminated!
- If your hands get contaminated during gown removal, immediately wash your hands or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer
- Unfasten gown ties, taking care that sleeves don't contact your body when reaching for ties
- Pull gown away from neck and shoulders, touching inside of gown only
- Turn gown inside out
- Fold or roll into a bundle and discard in a waste container



4. MASK OR RESPIRATOR

- Front of mask/respirator is contaminated — DO NOT TOUCH!
- If your hands get contaminated during mask/respirator removal, immediately wash your hands or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer
- Grasp bottom ties or elastics of the mask/respirator, then the ones at the top, and remove without touching the front
- Discard in a waste container



5. WASH HANDS OR USE AN ALCOHOL-BASED HAND SANITIZER IMMEDIATELY AFTER REMOVING ALL PPE



PERFORM HAND HYGIENE BETWEEN STEPS IF HANDS BECOME CONTAMINATED AND IMMEDIATELY AFTER REMOVING ALL PPE