 Department of Health Government of Nunavut		NURSING POLICY, PROCEDURE AND PROTOCOLS	
		Community Health Nursing	
TITLE:		SECTION:	POLICY NUMBER:
Personal Protective Equipment		Infection Control	10-005-00
EFFECTIVE DATE:	REVIEW DUE:	REPLACES NUMBER:	NUMBER OF PAGES:
February 10, 2018	February 2021		4
APPLIES TO:			
Community Health Nurses			

POLICY 1:

All health centre staff, students and volunteers shall evaluate the need for personal protective equipment (PPE) prior to carrying out procedures. When the need for PPE has been identified, the employee shall correctly use the equipment.

POLICY 2:

All health centre staff, students and volunteers shall receive training on the proper use of personal protective equipment. All health centre staff, students and volunteers shall inspect PPE for wear and defects before and after each use. The PPE shall be removed from use immediately if damaged or defective.

DEFINITIONS:

Personal Protective Equipment means “clothing, a device or other article required to be worn or used by a worker to prevent injury” (*Consolidation of General Safety Regulations*). This includes respirators, masks, face-shields, safety glasses, gowns and protective apparel (aprons, booties, hair covering, etc).

PRINCIPLES:

Personal protective equipment is meant to protect the employee from splashes, sprays, or other sources of contamination.

RELATED POLICIES, GUIDELINES AND LEGISLATION:

Nunavut *Consolidation of Safety Act R.S.N.W.T. 1988, c.S-1, as amended by Nunavut Statutes S.Nu.2003, c.25*

Nunavut *Consolidation of General Safety Regulations R.S.N.W.T. 1990, c. S-1 as amended by Nunavut Statutes S.Nu. 2003, c. 25.*



GUIDELINE 10-005-01

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

- All employees shall be trained regarding the use of the appropriate personal protective equipment required to safely perform their job descriptions, roles and responsibilities. Additional training is provided, when necessary, if an employee takes a new position or a new job function is added to their current position.
- Employees must remove personal protective clothing and equipment before leaving the work area, when the PPE becomes contaminated and/or damaged.

Gloves

1. Suitable gloves must be worn when hazards from bodily fluids, chemicals, sharp or abrasive objects, heat, cold, bio-hazards, radioactive material, etc. Gloves are not required for routine client care activities in which contact is limited to a client's intact skin.
2. Clean, non-sterile gloves should be worn:
 - a) While cleaning surfaces of potential contamination including patient tables, counters and toilets.
 - b) For contact with blood, body fluids, secretions and excretions, mucous membranes, draining wounds or non-intact skin (e.g. open skin lesions or exudative rash).
 - c) For handling items visibly soiled with blood, body fluids, secretions or excretions.
 - d) When the health care provider has open skin lesions on the hands (open lesions on the hands can pose a health risk to both clients and the health care provider).
3. Sterile gloves are required for performing sterile procedures.
4. When indicated, gloves should be put on just before the task or procedure requiring gloves and removed immediately after use and before touching clean environmental surfaces.
5. Gloves may need to be removed and changed between activities and procedures on the same client if handling materials that may contain high concentrations of microorganisms (e.g. a dressing changes or examination of the oral cavity).
6. Hands should be washed immediately after removing gloves. Note: gloves do not replace proper hand hygiene.

Eye and Face Protection

- Masks and eye protection or face shields should be worn where appropriate to protect the mucous membranes of the eyes, nose and mouth during procedures and client care activities likely to generate splashes or sprays of blood, body fluids, secretions or excretions.



Mask Selection is based on intended use:

A fluid resistant surgical or procedural mask should be worn to protect mucous membranes from splashes of body fluids, as well as from droplet contamination.



If protection is required from airborne or aerosolized pathogens then a N95 respirator must be worn. The N95 designation indicates that the respirator is capable of filtering all particles larger than 0.3 microns and 95% of particles smaller than 0.3 microns when worn by a worker that has been “fit-tested”. An N95 respirator will state clearly on the box that it has an N95 designation.

Fit Testing refers to a qualitative or quantitative assessment of the given respirator to protect the wearer from airborne particles and must be done by qualified personnel.



Eye protection can be provided with safety glasses, goggles or face shields. When a mask is worn as a barrier against exposure to blood or body fluids, eye protection should be worn as well.



Prescription eyeglasses are not considered adequate eye protection.

Eye protection should be cleaned if it has been contaminated with body fluids.



Protective Clothing (e.g. gowns, booties, etc) are to be worn if there is a potential for clothing or uncovered skin to become contaminated with blood, body fluids, secretions, excretions or other potentially infectious materials. Routine use of gowns is not recommended.

- Gowns used should be fluid resistant.
- Gowns should be applied immediately prior to the procedure and should be removed carefully and immediately after the procedure is completed to avoid contamination of the clothing. They should not be used for procedures on more than one client.

Other Personal Protective Equipment (not infection control related)

Head Protection is to be used when personnel are exposed to working environments where they might be struck on the head or strike their head against an overhead hazard, head protection is required.

- Appropriate protective head gear must be worn by anyone who operates a Government of Nunavut all-terrain vehicle or a snow machine.

Foot Protection

- Personnel must wear footwear with enclosed heel and toe.
- Safety shoes or boots with impact protection are required to be worn in work areas where carrying or handling materials such as packages, objects, parts or heavy tools, which if dropped, could injure the feet.

Hearing Protection

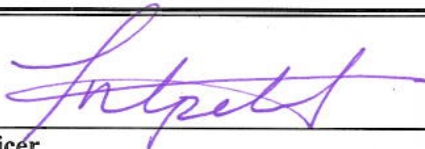
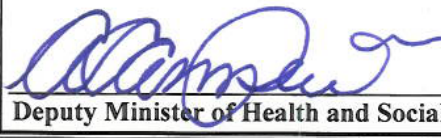
- All disposable earplugs should be properly fitted to ensure hearing is protected when exposed to continuous excessive noise.

Personal Fall Protection Equipment

- An employee shall wear a lanyard, lifeline and safety belt or body harness where he/she is working at an elevation of 3m or more above grade or floor level.

Radiation Protection

- Radiation protection equipment shall be used in accordance with X-ray Policy 08-007-00 and Policy 08-013-00 Radiation Monitoring System

Approved by:		Effective Date:
Chief Nursing Officer	11 FEB 2011 Date	April 1, 2011
	February 11, 2011 Date	
Deputy Minister of Health and Social Services		

