



Purpose:	To clarify glove selection and glove use for staff and volunteers working with patients where there may be a chance of body fluid exposure or environmental contamination.
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Scope:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All staff Island-Wide
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Outcomes:	To ensure correct glove selection and usage by all staff.
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1.0 Tasks that require gloves:

- Touching mucous membranes or contact with non-intact skin
- Changing diapers or adult briefs
- Performing personal hygiene or mouth care for patients/residents/clients

1.5 Tasks that do not require gloves:

- Tasks with no risk of exposure, splashing, or contact with blood, body fluids and non-intact skin
- Assisting or feeding a patient/resident/client
- Touching socially
- Pushing a wheelchair
- Delivering meals, mail, clean linen
- Providing care to patients/residents/clients with intact skin (e.g. using a tympanic thermometer)

2.0 Double Gloving at Island Health

The Infection Prevention and Control Program at Island Health recommends against the use of multiple layers of gloves simultaneously (double gloving), according to routine practices.

There are instances where double gloving may be indicated:

- During surgery where there exists a high risk of glove perforation, as it minimizes the risk of blood exposure contacts for staff.
- During critical client care events where contact with large amounts of blood/body fluids can occur (e.g. Trauma room staff caring for patient from a motor vehicle accident that may still have broken glass/debris on their person).
- According to specific protocols outlined for the safe handling and disposal with Cytotoxic and hazardous Drugs.
- As part of the protocols outlined for specific diseases e.g. Viral Hemorrhagic Fever.

Specific units where these situations are likely to occur may have their own policy on the use of double gloving. Please refer to unit guidelines for specific details.

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3.0 Definitions on types of gloves

Latex Gloves:

- Natural rubber
- Long standing barrier qualities
- Powder free are lower in allergens
- Very strong and durable
- Has re-seal qualities
- Provides excellent comfort and fit
- Good protection from most detergents

Use, Advantages, Disadvantages:

- Most common glove type for a sterile glove
- Recommended for significant exposures to blood and body fluids
- NOT recommended for use with oils and greases
- NOT recommended for individuals who have allergic reactions or sensitivity to latex

Storage:

To safeguard against allergen crossover, DO NOT STORE near Nitrile gloves

Nitrile Gloves:

- Synthetic rubber
- Excellent physical properties and dexterity
- Contains no latex protein
- Very strong and durable
- Excellent puncture resistance
- Good fit due to high elasticity
- Excellent resistance

Use, Advantages, Disadvantages:

- Used as a general purpose glove when additional strength and dexterity are required
- Alternative to latex for those with a latex allergy for tasks where exposure to blood and body fluids is likely
- NOT recommended for aromatic solvents, many ketones, esters, many chlorinated solvents

Storage:

To safeguard against allergen crossover, DO NOT STORE near latex gloves

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Glove Selection



Vinyl (PVC) Gloves:

- Polyvinyl Chloride
- Level of protection, based on the quality of the manufacturer
- Punctures easily when stressed
- Rigid – non elastic
- Medium chemical resistance

Use, Advantages, Disadvantages:

- Used as a general purpose glove when additional strength and dexterity are required
- Alternative to latex for those with a latex allergy for tasks where exposure to blood and body fluids is likely
- NOT recommended for aromatic solvents, many ketones, esters, many chlorinated solvents

4.0 References

- Parantainen, A., Verbeek, J. H., Lavoie, M., & Pahwa, M. (2012). Extra gloves or special types of gloves versus a single pair of gloves for preventing percutaneous exposure injuries in healthcare personnel. *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews*. doi:10.1002/14651858.cd009573
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