Removal of (doffing) personal protective equipment (PPE) including coveralls for aerosol generating procedures (AGPs)

PPE should be removed in an order that minimises the potential for cross contamination. PPE is to be removed carefully in a systematic way before leaving the patient’s room i.e. gloves, then gown/coverall and then eye protection.

The FFP2/3 respirator must always be removed outside the patient’s room. Where possible in a dedicated isolation room with ante room or at least 2m away from the patient area. This is to reduce the risk of the healthcare worker removing PPE and inadvertently contaminating themselves or the patient while doffing.

The FFP2/3 respirator should be removed in the anteroom/lobby. In the absence of an anteroom/lobby, remove FFP2/3 respirator in a safe area (e.g., outside the isolation room). All PPE must be disposed of as infectious clinical waste.

1. Firstly, grasp the outside of the outside of the glove with the opposite gloved hand; peel off. Hold the removed glove in gloved hand.

2. Then, slide the fingers of the un gloved hand under the remaining glove at the wrist. Peel the remaining glove off over the first glove and discard.

3. Clean hands with alcohol hand gel or rub.

Steps 2 to 6 overleaf >
Removal of (doffing) personal protective equipment (PPE) including coveralls for aerosol generating procedures (AGPs)

2 Remove coveralls
• Tilt head back and with one hand pull the coveralls away from your body
• With other hand run your hand up the zip until you reach the top and unzip the coveralls completely without touching any skin, clothes or uniform following the guidance of your buddy
• Remove coveralls from top to bottom. After freeing shoulders, pull arms out of the sleeves
• Roll the coverall, from the waist down and from the inside of the coverall, down to the top of the shoes taking care to only touch the inside of the coveralls
• Use one shoe covered foot to pull off the coverall from the other leg and repeat for second leg. Then step away from the coverall and dispose of it as infectious waste

3 Clean hands with alcohol hand gel or rub

4 Eye protection
(preferably a full face visor – goggles can be used as an alternative) – the outside will be contaminated
To remove, use both hands to handle the restraining straps by pulling away from behind and discard

5 Respirator
In the absence of an anteroom/lobby remove FFP2/3 respirators in a safe area (e.g., outside the isolation room)
Clean hands with alcohol hand gel or rub
Do not touch the front of the respirator as it will be contaminated
• lean forward slightly
• reach to the back of the head with both hands to find the bottom restraining straps and bring it up to the top strap
• lift straps over the top of the head
• let the respirator fall away from your face and place in bin

6 Clean hands with soap and water