COVID-19: infection prevention and control guidance Appendix 2

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About this guidance

The guidance is issued jointly by the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), Public Health Wales (PHW), Public Health Agency (PHA) Northern Ireland, Health Protection Scotland (HPS), Public Health Scotland, Public Health England and NHS England as official guidance.

Whilst this guidance seeks to ensure a consistent and resilient UK wide approach, some differences in operational details and organisational responsibilities may apply in Northern Ireland, England, Wales and Scotland.

Please note that this guidance is of a general nature and that an employer should consider the specific conditions of each individual place of work and comply with all applicable legislation, including the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974.

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First published 20 May 2020

PHE publications gateway number: GW-1250
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Recommended PPE for healthcare workers by secondary care inpatient clinical setting, NHS and independent sector

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<th>Setting</th>
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<th>Disposable fluid-repellent coverall/gown</th>
<th>Surgical mask</th>
<th>Fluid-resistant (Type IIR) surgical mask</th>
<th>Filtering face piece respirator</th>
<th>Eye/face protection</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acute hospital inpatient and emergency departments, mental health, learning disability, autism, dental and maternity settings</td>
<td>Performing a single aerosol generating procedure(^2) on a possible or confirmed case(^1) in any setting outside a higher risk acute care area(^4)</td>
<td>✓ single use(^3)</td>
<td>✗</td>
<td>✓ single use(^3)</td>
<td>✗</td>
<td>✗</td>
<td>✓ single use(^5)</td>
<td>✓ single use(^2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Working in a higher risk acute care area(^4) with possible or confirmed case(^5)</td>
<td>✓ single use(^3)</td>
<td>✓ single use(^2)</td>
<td>✓ sessional use(^6)</td>
<td>✗</td>
<td>✗</td>
<td>✓ sessional use(^3)</td>
<td>✓ sessional use(^3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Working in an inpatient, maternity, radiology area with possible or confirmed case(^6) – direct patient care (within 2 metres)</td>
<td>✓ single use(^3)</td>
<td>✓ single use(^2)</td>
<td>✗</td>
<td>✗</td>
<td>✓ sessional use(^3)</td>
<td>✗</td>
<td>✓ sessional use(^3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Working in an inpatient area with possible or confirmed case(^7) (not within 2 metres)</td>
<td>✗</td>
<td>✗</td>
<td>✗</td>
<td>✗</td>
<td>✓ sessional use(^5)</td>
<td>✗</td>
<td>✓ risk assess sessional use(^6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Working in an emergency department/acute assessment area with possible or confirmed case(^8) – direct patient care (within 2 metres)</td>
<td>✓ single use(^3)</td>
<td>✓ single use(^2)</td>
<td>✗</td>
<td>✗</td>
<td>✓ sessional use(^5)</td>
<td>✗</td>
<td>✓ sessional use(^5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>All individuals transferring possible or confirmed case(^9) (within 2 metres)</td>
<td>✓ single use(^3)</td>
<td>✓ single use(^2)</td>
<td>✗</td>
<td>✗</td>
<td>✓ single or sessional use(^6)</td>
<td>✗</td>
<td>✓ risk assess single or sessional use(^6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Operating theatre with possible or confirmed case(^5) – no AGPs(^3)</td>
<td>✓ single use(^3)</td>
<td>✓ single use(^2)</td>
<td>✓ risk assess single use(^3)</td>
<td>✗</td>
<td>✓ single or sessional use(^6)</td>
<td>✗</td>
<td>✓ single or sessional use(^5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Labour ward/area – 2nd/3rd stage labour vaginal delivery (no AGPs(^3)) – possible or confirmed case(^6)</td>
<td>✓ single use(^3)</td>
<td>✓ single use(^2)</td>
<td>✓ single use(^2)</td>
<td>✗</td>
<td>✗</td>
<td>✗</td>
<td>✗</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Inpatient care to any individuals in the extremely vulnerable group undergoing shielding(^3)</td>
<td>✓ single use(^3)</td>
<td>✓ single use(^2)</td>
<td>✗</td>
<td>✓ single use(^2)</td>
<td>✗</td>
<td>✗</td>
<td>✗</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1

1. This may be single or reusable face/eye protection/full face visor or goggles.
2. The list of aerosol generating procedures (AGPs) is included in section 6.1 at: www.gov.uk/government/publications/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-infection-prevention-and-control/covid-19-personal-protective-equipment-ppe. (Note AGPs are undergoing a further review at present).
4. Higher risk acute areas include: ICU/HDUs; ED resuscitation areas; wards with non-invasive ventilation; operating theatres; endoscopy units for upper Respiratory, ENT or upper GI endoscopy; and other clinical areas where AGPs are regularly performed.
5. Single use refers to disposal of PPE or decontamination of reusable items e.g. eye protection or respirator, after each patient and/or following completion of a procedure, task, or session; dispose or decontaminate reusable items after each patient contact as per Standard Infection Control Precautions (SICPs).
6. A session refers to a period of time where a healthcare worker is undertaking duties in a specific care setting/exposure environment e.g. on a ward round; providing ongoing care for inpatients. A session ends when the healthcare worker leaves the care setting/exposure environment. Sessional use should always be risk assessed and considered where there are high rates of hospital cases. PPE should be disposed of after each session or earlier if damaged, soiled, or uncomfortable.
7. Risk assessed use refers to utilising PPE when there is an anticipated/likely risk of contamination with splashes, droplets of blood or body fluids.
9. Ambulance staff conveying patients are not required to change or upgrade PPE for the purposes of patient handover.

Patient use of PPE: In cohort wards, communal waiting areas and during transportation, it is recommended that suspected or confirmed cases wear a surgical face mask if this can be tolerated. The aim of this is to minimise the dispersal of respiratory secretions, reduce both direct transmission risk and environmental contamination. A surgical face mask should not be worn by patients if there is potential for their clinical care to be compromised (e.g. when receiving oxygen therapy).
# Recommended PPE for primary, outpatient, community and social care by setting, NHS and independent sector

## Table 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Setting</th>
<th>Context</th>
<th>Disposable Gloves</th>
<th>Disposable Plastic Apron</th>
<th>Disposable fluid-repellent coverall/gown</th>
<th>Surgical mask</th>
<th>Fluid-resistant (Type IIR) surgical mask</th>
<th>Filtering face piece respirator</th>
<th>Eye/face protection¹</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Any setting</td>
<td>Performing an aerosol generating procedure on a possible or confirmed case²</td>
<td>✓ single use⁴</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>✓ single use³</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>✓ single use⁴</td>
<td>✓ single use⁴</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary care, ambulatory care, and other non emergency outpatient and other clinical settings e.g. optometry, dental, maternity, mental health</td>
<td>Direct patient care – possible or confirmed case(s)² (within 2 metres)</td>
<td>✓ single use⁴</td>
<td>✓ single use⁴</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>✓ single or sessional use⁵,⁶</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓ single or sessional use⁵,⁶</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Working in reception/communal area with possible or confirmed case(s)² and unable to maintain 2 metres social distance²</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>✓ sessional use⁵</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individuals own home (current place of residence)</td>
<td>Direct care to any member of the household where any member of the household is a possible or confirmed case²,⁷</td>
<td>✓ single use⁴</td>
<td>✓ single use⁴</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>✓ single or sessional use⁵,⁶</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓ risk assess single or sessional use⁵,⁶,⁸</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Direct care or visit to any individuals in the extremely vulnerable group or where a member of the household is within the extremely vulnerable group undergoing shielding²</td>
<td>✓ single use⁴</td>
<td>✓ single use⁴</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓ single use⁶</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Home birth where any member of the household is a possible or confirmed case²,⁷</td>
<td>✓ single use⁴</td>
<td>✓ single use⁴</td>
<td>✓ single use³</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>✓ single or sessional use⁵,⁶</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓ single or sessional use⁵,⁶</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community and social care, care home, mental health inpatients and other overnight care facilities e.g. learning disability, hospices, prison healthcare</td>
<td>Facility with possible or confirmed case(s)² – and direct resident care (within 2 metres)</td>
<td>✓ single use⁴</td>
<td>✓ single use⁴</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>✓ sessional use⁵</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>risk assess sessional use⁵,⁶</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Any setting</td>
<td>Collection of nasopharyngeal swab(s)</td>
<td>✓ single use⁴</td>
<td>✓ single or sessional use⁵,⁶</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓ single or sessional use⁵,⁶</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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1. This may be single or reusable face/eye protection/full face visor or goggles.
2. The list of aerosol generating procedures (AGPs) is included in section 8.1 at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-initial-investigation-of-possible-cases-initial-clinical-management-of-possible-cases-of-wuhan-novel-coronavirus-wuhan-novel-coronavirus-infections-0.⁷ | Note AGPs are undergoing a further review at present.
3. A case is any individual meeting case definition for a possible or confirmed case; https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-initial-investigation-of-possible-cases-initial-clinical-management-of-possible-cases-of-wuhan-novel-coronavirus-wuhan-novel-coronavirus-infections-0.⁷ | (Note AGPs are undergoing a further review at present.)
4. Single use refers to disposal of PPE or decontamination of reusable items e.g. eye protection or respirator, after each patient and/or following completion of a procedure, task, or session; dispose or decontaminate reusable items after each patient contact as per Standard Infection Control Precautions (SICPs).
5. Single session refers to a period of time where a health care worker is undertaking duties in a specific care setting/exposure environment e.g. on a ward round, providing ongoing care for inpatients. A session ends when the health care worker leaves the care setting/exposure environment.
6. Sessional use should always be risk assessed and considered where there are high rates of hospital cases. PPE should be disposed of after each session or earlier if damaged, soiled, or uncomfortable.
7. Non clinical staff should maintain 2m social distancing, through marking out a controlled distance; sessional use should always be risk assessed and considered where there are high rates of community cases.
8. Initial risk assessment should take place by phone prior to entering the premises or at 2 metres social distance on entering; where the health or social care worker assesses that an individual is symptomatic with suspected/confirmed cases appropriate PPE should be put on prior to providing care.
9. Risk assessed use refers to utilising PPE when there is an anticipated/likely risk of contamination with splashes, droplets or blood or body fluids.

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## Recommended PPE for ambulance staff, paramedics, other patient transport services and pharmacy staff

### Setting

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Setting</th>
<th>Context</th>
<th>Disposable Gloves</th>
<th>Disposable Plastic Apron</th>
<th>Disposable fluid-repellent coverall/gown</th>
<th>Surgical mask</th>
<th>Fluid-resistant (Type IIR) surgical mask</th>
<th>Filtering face piece respirator</th>
<th>Eye/face protection¹</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ambulance staff/paramedic/pre-hospital critical care/Helicopter Emergency Medical Service/hospital transport services</td>
<td>Performing an aerosol generating procedure e.g. intubation, suctioning² on a possible or confirmed case(²)</td>
<td>✓ single use²</td>
<td>✗</td>
<td>✓ single use²</td>
<td>✗</td>
<td>✓ single use²</td>
<td>✓ single use²</td>
<td>✓ single use²</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Direct patient care –possible or confirmed case(²) (within 2 metres)</td>
<td>✓ single use²</td>
<td>✓ single use²</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✗</td>
<td>✗</td>
<td>✓ single use²</td>
<td>✓ single use²</td>
<td>✓ single use²</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Driver conveying possible or confirmed case(²) in vehicle with a bulkhead, no anticipated direct care⁷</td>
<td>✗</td>
<td>✗</td>
<td>✗</td>
<td>✗</td>
<td>✗</td>
<td>✗</td>
<td>✗</td>
<td>✗</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Driver conveying possible or confirmed case(²) in vehicle without a bulkhead, no direct patient care and within 2 metres⁷</td>
<td>✗</td>
<td>✗</td>
<td>✗</td>
<td>✗</td>
<td>✗</td>
<td>✓ single or sessional use⁵</td>
<td>✗</td>
<td>✗</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pharmacy staff/workers</td>
<td>Working in an area with possible or confirmed case(³) and unable to maintain 2 metres social distance⁸</td>
<td>✗</td>
<td>✗</td>
<td>✗</td>
<td>✓ single or sessional use⁵</td>
<td>✗</td>
<td>✗</td>
<td>✗</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Working in an area with possible or confirmed case(³) and able to maintain social distancing</td>
<td>✗</td>
<td>✗</td>
<td>✗</td>
<td>✗</td>
<td>✗</td>
<td>✗</td>
<td>✗</td>
<td>✗</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Table 3

1. This may be single or reusable face/eye protection/full face visor or goggles.
2. The list of aerosol generating procedures (AGPs) is included in section 8.1 at: [www.gov.uk/government/publications/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-infection-prevention-and-control](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-infection-prevention-and-control). (Note AGPs are undergoing a further review at present)
4. Single use refers to disposal of PPE or decontamination of reusable items e.g. eye protection or respirator, after each patient and/or following completion of a procedure, task, or session; dispose or decontaminate reusable items after each patient contact as per Standard Infection Control Precautions (SICPs).
5. A single session refers to a period of time where a health care worker is undertaking duties in a specific care setting/exposure environment e.g. on a ward round; providing ongoing care for inpatients. A session ends when the health care worker leaves the care setting/exposure environment. Sessional use should always be risk assessed and considered where there are high rates of hospital cases. PPE should be disposed of after each session or earlier if damaged, soiled, or uncomfortable.
6. Non clinical staff should maintain 2m social distancing, through marking out a controlled distance; sessional use should always be risk assessed and considered where there are high rates of community cases.
7. In communal waiting areas and during transportation, it is recommended that suspected or confirmed cases wear a surgical face mask if this can be tolerated. The aim of this is to minimise the dispersal of respiratory secretions, reduce both direct transmission risk and environmental contamination. A surgical facemask should not be worn by patients if there is potential for their clinical care to be compromised (e.g. when receiving oxygen therapy).
8. Ambulance staff conveying patients are not required to change or upgrade PPE for the purposes of patient handover.
**Additional considerations, in addition to standard infection prevention and control precautions,**

where there is sustained transmission of COVID-19, taking into account individual risk assessment for this new and emerging pathogen, NHS and independent sector

| Setting | Context | Disposable Gloves | Disposable Plastic Apron | Disposable fluid-repellent coverall/gown | Surgical mask | Fluid-resistant (Type IIR) surgical mask | Filtering face piece respirator | Eye/face protection*
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Any setting</td>
<td>Direct patient/resident care assessing an individual that is not currently a possible or confirmed case² (within 2 metres)</td>
<td>✓ single use³</td>
<td>✓ single use³</td>
<td>❌</td>
<td>❌</td>
<td>✓ risk assess sessional use⁴,⁵</td>
<td>❌</td>
<td>✓ risk assess sessional use⁴,⁵</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any setting</td>
<td>Performing an aerosol generating procedure⁶ on an individual that is not currently a possible or confirmed case⁷</td>
<td>✓ single use³</td>
<td>❌</td>
<td>✓ single use³</td>
<td>❌</td>
<td>❌</td>
<td>✓ single use³</td>
<td>✓ single use³</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any setting</td>
<td>Patient transport service driver conveying any individual to essential healthcare appointment, that is not currently a possible or confirmed case in vehicle without a bulkhead, no direct patient care and within 2 metres</td>
<td>❌</td>
<td>❌</td>
<td>❌</td>
<td>✓ single use³</td>
<td>❌</td>
<td>❌</td>
<td>❌</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

1. This may be single or reusable face/eye protection/full face visor or goggles.
3. Single use refers to disposal of PPE or decontamination of reusable items e.g. eye protection or respirator, after each patient and/or following completion of a procedure, task, or session; dispose or decontaminate reusable items after each patient contact as per Standard Infection Control Precautions (SICPs).
4. Risk assess refers to utilising PPE when there is an anticipated/likely risk of contamination with splashes, droplets of blood or body fluids. Where staff consider there is a risk to themselves or the individuals they are caring for they should wear a fluid repellent surgical mask with or without eye protection as determined by the individual staff member for the care episode/session.
5. A session ends when the health care worker leaves the care setting/exposure environment. Sessional use should always be risk assessed and consider the risk of infection to and from patients, residents and health and care workers where COVID-19 is circulating in the community and hospitals. PPE should be disposed of after each session or earlier if damaged, soiled, or uncomfortable.
7. Ambulance staff conveying patients are not required to change or upgrade PPE for the purposes of patient handover.

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COVID-19 Safe ways of working
A visual guide to safe PPE

General contact with confirmed or possible COVID-19 cases
- Eye protection to be worn on risk assessment
- Fluid resistant surgical mask
- Disposable apron
- Gloves

Aerosol Generating Procedures or High Risk Areas
- Eye protection eye shield, goggles or visor
- Filtering facepiece respirator
- Long sleeved fluid repellent gown
- Gloves

Clean your hands before and after patient contact and after removing some or all of your PPE
Clean all the equipment that you are using according to local policies
Use the appropriate PPE for the situation you are working in (General / AGPs or High Risk Areas)
Take off your PPE safely
Take breaks and hydrate yourself regularly

For more information on infection prevention and control of COVID-19 please visit:
Best Practice: How to hand wash step by step images

Steps 3-8 should take at least 15 seconds.

1. Wet hands with water.
2. Apply enough soap to cover all hand surfaces.
3. Rub hands palm to palm.
4. Right palm over the back of the other hand with interlaced fingers and vice versa.
5. Palm to palm with fingers interlaced.
6. Backs of fingers to opposing palms with fingers interlocked.
7. Rotational rubbing of left thumb clasped in right palm and vice versa.
8. Rotational rubbing, backwards and forwards with clasped fingers of right hand in left palm and vice versa.
9. Rinse hands with water.
10. Dry thoroughly with towel.
11. Use elbow to turn off tap.
12. ... and your hands are safe*.

*Any skin complaints should be referred to local occupational health or GP.
Best Practice: How to handrub step by step images

1. Apply a palmful of the product in a cupped hand and cover all surfaces.

2. Rub hands palm to palm.

3. Right palm over the back of the other hand with interlaced fingers and vice versa.

4. Palm to palm with fingers interlaced.

5. Backs of fingers to opposing palms with fingers interlocked.

6. Rotational rubbing of left thumb clasped in right palm and vice versa.

7. Rotational rubbing, backwards and forwards with clasped fingers of right hand in left palm and vice versa.

8. Once dry, your hands are safe.

Adapted from the World Health Organization/Health Protection Scotland
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Best Practice: management of blood and body fluid spillages

Blood and/or body fluid spillage

Wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) eg non-sterile disposable gloves/aprons

Is the spillage on soft furnishings eg carpets?

NO

Is it a spill of blood or body fluid as specified in Box 1?

YES

Spill contains ONLY urine/faeces/vomit/sputum:
- do not use a chlorine releasing agent directly on a urine spill
- soak up spillage/gross contamination using disposable paper towels
- if a urine spillage a gelling agent can be used

- apply chlorine releasing granules directly to the spill.¹
- if granules not available place disposable paper towels over spillage to absorb and contain it applying solution of 10,000 parts per million available chlorine (ppm av cl) solution to the towels
- follow manufacturers' instructions on contact time or leave for 3 minutes
- discard the gross contamination into a healthcare waste bag

¹ all NHS Scotland settings must use granules, or equivalent product eg spill kits

- decontaminate area with a solution of 1,000 parts per million available chlorine (ppm av cl) solution or use a combined detergent/chlorine releasing solution with a concentration of 1,000 ppm av cl
- follow manufacturers' instructions on contact time

- wash area with disposable paper towels and a solution of general purpose detergent and warm water
- dry area or allow to air dry
- discard paper towels and disposable PPE into a healthcare waste bag
- perform hand hygiene

Discuss with IPCT and consider:
- if furnishing is heavily contaminated you may have to discard it
- if the furnishing can withstand a chlorine releasing solution then follow appropriate procedure for the type of spill
- if it is safe to clean with detergent alone then follow appropriate procedure
- if it is not safe to clean with detergent then the item should be discarded

Box 1
- cerebrospinal fluid
- peritoneal fluid
- pleural fluid
- synovial fluid
- amniotic fluid
- semen
- vaginal secretions
- breast milk
- any other body fluid with visible blood (excluding urine)

Facial hair and FFP3 respirators

*Ensure that hair does not cross the respirator sealing surface

For any style, hair should not cross or interfere with the respirator sealing surface. If the respirator has an exhalation valve, hair within the sealed mask area should not impinge upon or contact the valve.

Routine decontamination of reusable non-invasive patient care equipment

- Check manufacturer’s instructions for suitability of cleaning products especially when dealing with electronic equipment
- Wear appropriate PPE e.g. disposable, non-sterile gloves and aprons

- Decontaminate equipment with disposable cloths/paper towel and a fresh solution of **general-purpose detergent and water or detergent impregnated wipes**.
- Rinse and thoroughly dry.
- Disinfect specific items of non-invasive, reusable, communal care equipment if recommended by the manufacturer e.g. 70% isopropyl alcohol on stethoscopes

- Immediately decontaminate equipment with disposable cloths/paper roll and a fresh solution of detergent, rinse, dry and follow with a disinfectant solution of **1,000 parts per million available chlorine (ppm av cl)***, rinse and thoroughly dry
- Or use a combined detergent/chlorine releasing solution with a concentration of **1,000 ppm av cl***, rinse and thoroughly dry
- If the item cannot withstand chlorine releasing agents consult the manufacturer’s instructions for a suitable alternative to use following or combined with detergent cleaning.

- Immediately decontaminate equipment with disposable cloths/paper roll and a fresh solution of detergent, rinse, dry and follow with a disinfectant solution of **10,000 parts per million available chlorine (ppm av cl)***, rinse and thoroughly dry
- Or use a combined detergent/chlorine releasing solution with a concentration of **10,000 ppm av cl***, rinse and thoroughly dry

- Follow manufacturer’s instructions for dilution, application and contact time.
- Clean the piece of equipment from the top or furthest away point
- **Discard disposable cloths/paper roll immediately into the healthcare waste receptacle**
- Discard detergent/disinfectant solution in the designated area
- Clean, dry and store re-usable decontamination equipment
- Remove and discard PPE
- Perform hand hygiene

* Scottish National Blood Transfusion service and Scottish Ambulance Service use products different from those stated in the National Infection Prevention and Control Manual