

A PROTOCOL FOR PLACEMENT AND REMOVAL OF PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT IN A POSSIBLE CASE OF CORONAVIRUS SARS-CoV-2

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What was done?:

To develop a protocol for placement and removal of personal protective equipment (PPE), established for contact with possible or confirmed coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 infected patients, taking into account the medical devices available during the pandemic. Alternatives and strategies were also proposed for resources optimization. Final protocol resulted from a multidisciplinary team work and it was finally revised and approved by the Medical and Quality Direction.

Why was it done?:

To guarantee workers safety as well as optimize the use of PPE in the hospital.

Systematic bibliographic review

Articles selection on the placement / removal of PPE.

Technical specifications of the available medical devices and recommendations of the competent organizations.

Establishment of PPE components, and order of placement and removal

How what is done?:

PPE placement	PPE removal	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Wash hands (WH) -Place shims -WH -Put on the first pair of gloves -Put on FFP2 mask -Wear waterproof protective overalls from the feet -Place garbage bags on feet and adjust them on legs -Wash gloves with a hydroalcoholic solution (HS) -Put on second pair of gloves -Put on a standard/reinforced surgical gown -Wash HS -Put on surgical mask -Put on disposable gown -Put on third pair of gloves -Put on face protection screen -Put on surgical cap and fit it over a face shield 	<p>a) Before leaving the isolation room:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Remove and discard bags from both feet -Remove and discard disposable gown -Remove and discard the outermost gloves <p>b) Outside the isolation room:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Wash HS -Remove surgical cap and screen -Remove and discard surgical mask -Wash HS -Remove the standard/reinforced surgical gown and reserve it -Remove second pair of gloves -Wash HS. 	<p>c) Before entering the clean area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Remove shoes -Remove third pair of gloves <p>d) Go to the clean area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Disinfect footwear -Wash HS -Remove overall and if necessary reserve it -Wash HS -Remove FFP2 mask and reserve it if necessary -WH

A team member read and check all steps carried out during the procedure.

What has been achieved?:

The protocol was followed by 54 (100%) workers. Since its implantation, on March 16th, only the 3,7% (n=2) of workers were infected by SARS-CoV-2.

What next?:

The protocol is under constant revision and modification to adapt it to the available medical devices in every moment.