Guidelines for the Use and Disinfection of Shared PPE

June 9, 2020

Purpose:

This guidance provides recommendations on the use and care of shared Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) in laboratories and other locations at MIT. This includes cleaning and disinfecting recommendations to prevent the transmission of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19.

Appropriate disinfectants to use against SARS-CoV-2 include 10% household bleach, Lysol Brand All Purpose Cleaner, solutions of 70% alcohol (i.e. 70% ethanol or 70% isopropanol). A full list of disinfectants that meet the EPA's criteria for use against SARS-CoV-2 can be found here: https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2

Shared PPE:

To reduce the potential for transmission of SARS-CoV-2 through shared PPE items, it is generally recommended that PPE items be used by only one person when possible. Consider designating people for specific tasks requiring specialized PPE and/or obtain multiple sets to avoid sharing PPE. When it is not possible to avoid sharing the PPE, items must be disinfected before and after each use to protect the wearer from possible contamination.

Disposable PPE should never be shared.

Here are a few examples of PPE that are sometimes shared:

1. **Lab Coats /Gowns**
   - Recommend each person is assigned their own set of lab coats, e.g. 3 lab coats.
   - Label your lab coats, don't put them back on a common rack after using.
   - Store your lab coat separate from other people's lab coats and away from personal items, such as your backpack.
   - Arrange for lab coats to be laundered or decontaminated when soiled.
   - Never take lab coats home for laundering.

2. **Eye and Face Protection (safety glasses, goggles, face shield)**
   - Recommend dedicated items per person.
   - When items are used by multiple persons, they need to be disinfected after being worn with an appropriate COVID-19 disinfectant for the prescribed contact time. Many manufacturers recommend using 70% alcohol solutions for the decontamination (do not use ethanol or other disinfectants on laser safety glasses, follow guidance from the EHS Radiation Protection Program).
   - Some disinfectants should be rinsed with water and the PPE dried before reuse.
   - Some disposable face shields can be disinfected and reused as long as they are not compromised.

3. **Gloves**
   - **Disposable Gloves**
     - After use in laboratories, core facilities or animal facilities, remove and place directly into the appropriate waste disposal container based on hazard.
     - For non-laboratory locations, e.g. when gloves are used to disinfect surfaces in an office or breakroom, remove and place into regular trash.
   - **Autoclave Gloves that are Heat-Resistant**

- o Consider wearing new clean disposable gloves under the autoclave gloves. Most disposable gloves are not meant to handle very hot items and while the autoclave gloves would protect from the heat, users must be very careful to avoid getting hot liquids onto the gloves.
  - o Fabrics can be difficult to fully disinfect. Consider having a few pairs dedicated to a few people. Contact EHS for alternatives (environment@mit.edu)
- **Cryogenic Gloves**
  - o Consider wearing new clean disposable gloves under cryogenic gloves. Users must be very careful not to get cryogens inside the cryogenic gloves while dispensing it.
- **Reusable**
  - o Wear new clean disposable gloves under the reusable gloves.
- **Glovebox gloves**
  - o Wear new clean disposable gloves under the glovebox gloves.
  - o Disinfect gloves before and after use according to the manufacturer's instructions.

All other shared PPE not listed in this guidance should be disinfected as described above.

Store PPE covered or in drawers when possible to prevent contamination.

Always wash your hands with soap and water after removing PPE. If soap and water is not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.

If you have questions or require additional information, please contact EHS (environment@mit.edu)