

Workers who may be exposed to blood or other potentially infectious materials (OPIM) must use personal protective equipment (PPE) that may include gloves, gowns, lab coats, face shields or masks, eye protection, and other protective gear.

- The level and type of protection must match the expected exposure, so those employees who may encounter increased amounts of blood, OPIM, or splashes and sprays will need more protective clothing.
- Protection against exposure to the body is provided by protective clothing, such as gowns, aprons, lab coats, and similar garments.



Workers exposed to blood or OPIM must remove personal protective equipment before leaving the work area.

- If a garment is penetrated by blood or OPIM, it must be removed immediately or as soon as feasible.
- Remove disposable gloves without contacting the soiled part of the gloves and dispose of them immediately in a proper container.
- Once PPE is removed, it must be placed in an appropriately designated area or container for storage, washing, decontamination, or disposal.

OSHA Standard 1910.1030(d)(3)(xi) *Appropriate protective clothing such as, but not limited to, gowns, aprons, lab coats, clinic jackets, or similar outer garments shall be worn in occupational exposure situations. The type and characteristics will depend upon the task and degree of exposure anticipated.*

- Lab workers utilizing the biosafety cabinet should wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE). Lab coats must be buttoned or closed in the back if tied for greater protection. Gloves should be pulled over the wrists of lab coats, not worn inside the sleeve.

Discussion

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What protective clothing is required for your specific job tasks and why?

Where is PPE placed once it is removed?