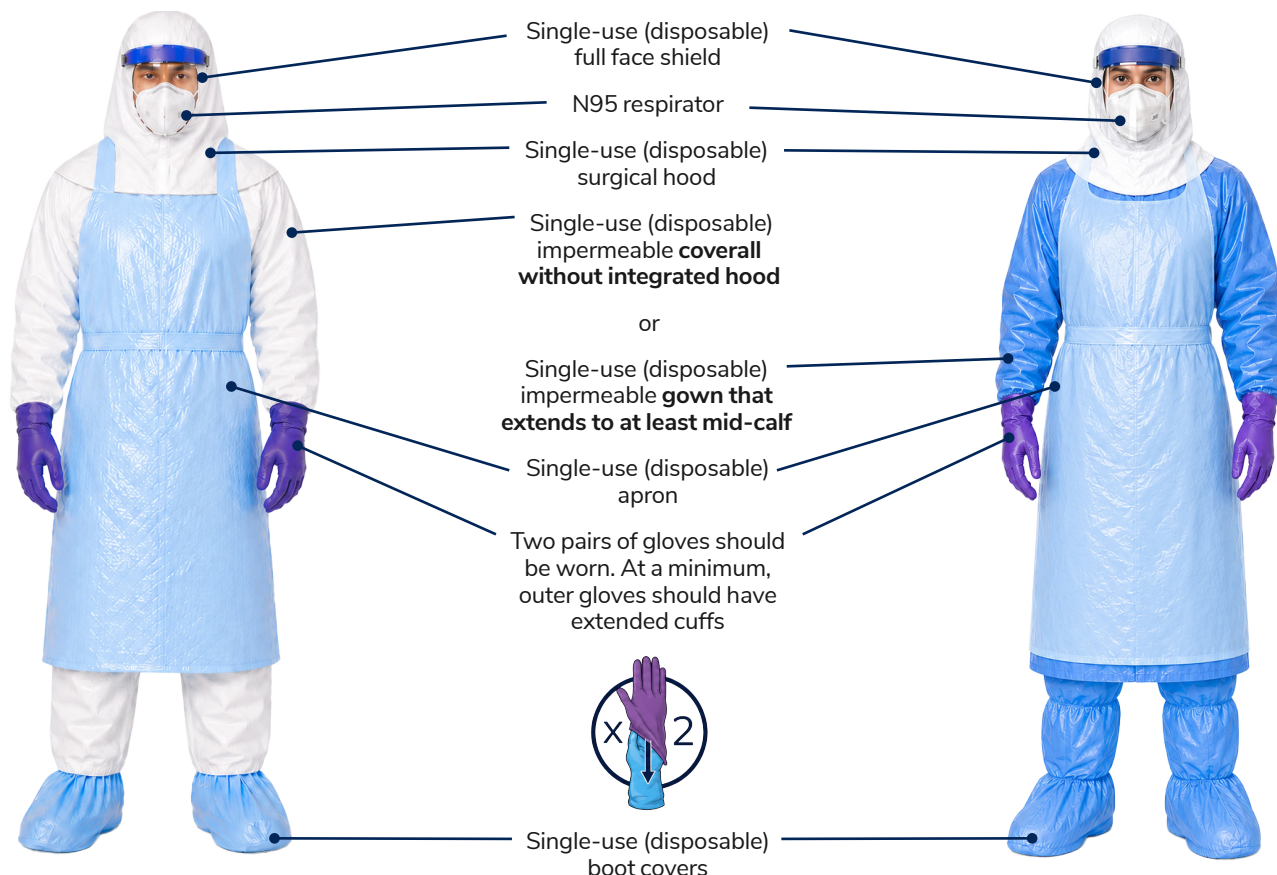


Use Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) When Caring for Patients with **Confirmed Ebola or Clinically Unstable** Patients with Suspected Ebola Disease (N95 Option)

For healthcare facilities that use a NIOSH approved, fit-tested N95 or higher respirator. Follow these PPE procedures when caring for patients with confirmed Ebola at any stage of illness, or patients with suspected Ebola who are **clinically unstable or experiencing bleeding, vomiting, or diarrhea**.



If the patient is not confirmed to have Ebola disease and is clinically stable, use this [guidance](#) instead.



Before providing care, healthcare personnel must:

- ✓ **Complete medical clearance** and fit testing for the respirator they will be using.
- ✓ **Complete comprehensive PPE training**, including when and what PPE is necessary, how to safely put on and take off PPE, limitations of PPE, and proper care, maintenance, and disposal of PPE.
- ✓ **Demonstrate competency** in infection control practices and procedures.

PPE Reminders

- A trained observer should guide you in putting on your PPE. They will:
 - Use a written checklist to verify each step for putting on your PPE.
 - Confirm all of your PPE is serviceable and correctly worn.
 - Ensure no clothing, skin, or hair is exposed before you enter the potentially contaminated area (e.g., patient room).
- PPE must remain in place and be worn correctly for the entire duration of work in potentially contaminated areas.
- **Do not adjust PPE during patient care** (e.g., do not retie gown, do not adjust respirator). If an adjustment is needed, step away from the immediate patient area and perform a risk assessment to determine how to safely address the adjustment without posing risk for self-exposure. In some situations, this may require exiting the room for support from a doffing (removal) assistant.



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[N95 Use](#)



[Watch Videos](#)



[Review Instructions](#)



For healthcare facilities that use a NIOSH approved, fit-tested N95 or higher respirator

The steps below show one way to put on and take off PPE safely. Other approved sequences may be acceptable. Carefully follow your facility's training steps to ensure your gear protects you and you know how to safely remove it without contaminating yourself.

Putting on PPE with an N95

Before Entering Patient Room



01. Remove Personal Items and Prepare for PPE

- Remove all personal clothing and items.
- Wear surgical scrubs (or disposable garments).
- Do not wear or bring items such as jewelry (including rings), watches, cell phones, pagers, or pens into the patient room.
- Wear dedicated washable plastic or rubber footwear.
- Tie back long hair.
- Secure eyeglasses with a tie.



02. Inspect PPE and Prepare to Put it on

- Check all PPE for damage (e.g., tears or rips).
- Ensure all required PPE and supplies are available and the correct size.
- Review the sequence to put on PPE with the trained observer before starting.
- The trained observer reads the sequence to put on PPE aloud step-by-step.



03. Put on Boot Covers (Skip this step if wearing a coverall with integrated socks)

- If wearing a coverall without integrated socks, the upper band of the boot cover should be worn under the coverall pant leg to prevent pooling of liquids.
- Perform hand hygiene using alcohol-based hand rub (ABHR). Allow hands to dry completely.



04. Put on Inner Gloves

- Put on the first pair of gloves.



05. Put on Impermeable Gown or Impermeable Coverall

- Ensure it fits properly and allows free movement.
- Ensure the cuffs of the inner gloves are tucked under the gown or coverall sleeves.



06. Put on N95 Respirator

- Perform a user seal check.



07. Put on Surgical Hood

- Put on the surgical hood over the N95 respirator.
- Ensure it fully covers the hair, ears, neck, and extends to the shoulders.



08. Put on Outer Apron (if used)

- Wear a disposable apron to provide additional protection for the front of the body.



09. Put on Outer Gloves

- Put on a second pair of gloves with extended cuffs.
- Pull glove cuffs over the gown or coverall sleeves.



10. Put on Full Face Shield

- Put it on over the N95 respirator and surgical hood.
- Ensure it protects the eyes and the front and sides of the face.



11. Verify PPE Fit and Integrity

- The trained observer verifies that the PPE ensemble is complete, intact, and correctly worn.
- Check for tears, gaps, or exposed clothing, skin, or hair.
- Confirm you can move comfortably (e.g., extend arms, bend, and perform patient-care tasks) while maintaining full coverage.
- Use a mirror if available.

Once PPE is properly fitted and verified, healthcare personnel may enter the patient room.



Taking Off PPE

For healthcare facilities that use a NIOSH approved, fit-tested N95 or higher respirator

- ! Removing used PPE is a high-risk process. You need:**
- ✓ A structured procedure
 - ✓ A trained observer
 - ✓ A doffing assistant, in some situations
 - ✓ A designated area for PPE removal

PPE Reminders

- Remove PPE **slowly and deliberately** and in the **correct sequence** to reduce the possibility of self-contamination or other exposure to the virus.
- Place all PPE waste in a **leak-proof infectious waste container** (see next steps).
- Remove PPE under the guidance and supervision of a trained observer. The **trained observer should not provide physical assistance** during PPE removal process. They will:
 - Read each step of the PPE removal process aloud. The person removing their PPE should wait until each step is read before they perform that action.
 - Observe the performance of each step and confirm PPE is removed correctly.
 - Remind the healthcare personnel to avoid touching their face or making other reflexive movements that could cause contamination.



01. Inspect PPE Before Removal

- Check for visible contamination, cuts, or tears before removal.
- If visibly contaminated, clean and disinfect the affected areas of the PPE with an EPA-registered disinfectant wipe.



02. Disinfect Outer Gloves

- Disinfect outer gloves with an EPA-registered disinfectant wipe or ABHR.
- Allow gloves to dry completely.



03. Remove Outer Apron (if used)

- Remove the apron by breaking or untying the neck strap and waist ties.
- Roll the apron away from the body, keeping the contaminated surface inside the apron.
- Discard the apron in the designated infectious waste container.



04. Inspect PPE

- Check for visible contamination, cuts, or tears.
- If visibly contaminated, clean and disinfect the affected areas of the PPE with an EPA-registered disinfectant wipe.



05. Disinfect and Remove Outer Gloves

- Disinfect outer gloves with an EPA-registered disinfectant wipe or ABHR.
- Remove and discard outer gloves without contaminating the inner gloves.
- Dispose of gloves in the designated infectious waste container.



06. Inspect and Disinfect Inner Gloves

- Check inner gloves for contamination, cuts, or tears. **If a cut or tear is detected in an inner glove, immediately follow the facility's occupational exposure protocol.**
- If **visibly soiled** but **no** tears or cuts, disinfect the gloves with an EPA-registered disinfectant wipe or ABHR, remove and discard them, perform hand hygiene with ABHR, and put on a new pair of gloves before continuing to the next step.
- If **not visibly soiled** and **no** tears or cuts, disinfect the gloves with an EPA-registered disinfectant wipe or ABHR.



07. Remove Full Face Shield

- Tilt the head slightly forward.
- Grasp the rear strap and pull it gently over the head, allowing the face shield to fall forward.
- Avoid touching the front surface of the face shield or the face during removal.
- Discard the face shield in the designated infectious waste container.



08. Disinfect Inner Gloves

- Use an EPA-registered disinfectant wipe or ABHR.



09. Remove Surgical Hood

- Unfasten the surgical hood, if applicable. Assistance may be provided by the doffing assistant, if needed.
- Gently remove the hood.
- Discard the surgical hood in the designated infectious waste container.



10. Disinfect Inner Gloves

- Use an EPA-registered disinfectant wipe or ABHR.



Taking Off PPE

For healthcare facilities that use a NIOSH approved, fit-tested N95 or higher respirator



11. Remove Gown or Coverall

- For *gowns*, untie, unfasten, or gently break fasteners as needed before removal. A doffing assistant can help with unfastening.
- For *coveralls*, tilt the head back to reach the zipper or fasteners. Fully unzip or unfasten before rolling down and removing.
- Avoid contact between scrubs or disposable garments and the contaminated outer surface of the gown or coverall during removal.
- Touch only the inside of the gown or coverall during removal.
- Roll the gown or coverall inside out as it is removed.
- Use a mirror, if available, to help avoid contaminating skin or inner garments.
- Discard the gown or coverall in the designated infectious waste container.



12. Disinfect Inner Gloves

- Use an EPA-registered disinfectant wipe or ABHR.



13. Remove Boot Covers

- Sit on a clean surface to remove the boot covers.
- Avoid contaminating scrub pant legs during removal.
- Discard the boot covers in the designated infectious waste container.



14. Disinfect and Change Inner Gloves

- Use an EPA-registered disinfectant wipe or ABHR.
- Remove and discard gloves, taking care not to contaminate bare hands during the removal process.
- Perform hand hygiene with ABHR.
- Put on a new pair of inner gloves before continuing to the next step.



15. Remove N95 Respirator

- Tilt the head slightly forward.
- Remove the N95 respirator by grasping the bottom strap first, then the top strap.
- Avoid touching the front of the respirator during removal.
- Discard the N95 respirator in the designated infectious waste container.



16. Disinfect Inner Gloves

- Use an EPA-registered disinfectant wipe or ABHR.



17. Disinfect Washable Footwear

- Wipe all external surfaces of the washable footwear with an EPA-registered disinfectant wipe.



18. Disinfect and Remove Inner Gloves

- Use an EPA-registered disinfectant wipe or ABHR.
- Remove and discard gloves, taking care not to contaminate bare hands during the removal process.
- Dispose of gloves in the designated infectious waste container.



19. Perform Hand Hygiene

- Use ABHR.
- Allow hands to dry completely.



20. Inspect for Any Contamination of the Surgical Scrubs or Disposable Garments

- Both the trained observer and the healthcare personnel inspect for contamination of the surgical scrubs or disposable garments.
- If contamination is identified, carefully remove the contaminated garments, shower immediately, and notify the infection preventionist or occupational safety and health coordinator (or designee).



21. Proceed to Showering Area

- Healthcare personnel can leave the PPE removal area wearing their dedicated washable footwear and surgical scrubs or disposable garments, proceeding directly to showering area where these are removed.

*An EPA-registered disinfectant wipe is recommended in some of the removal steps. Use a disposable wipe impregnated with a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-registered hospital disinfectant from [List Q](#); for Ebola, products from [List L](#) can also be used. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for recommended contact times.

