**Do’s & Don’ts**

**DO’S AND DON’TS FOR WEARING GLOVES IN THE HEALTHCARE ENVIRONMENT**

**Types of gloves encountered in the healthcare setting**

---

**STERILE GLOVES**

Indicated for performing any sterile procedure including but not limited to vaginal delivery, invasive radiological procedure, central vascular device dressing change, and accessing implanted central venous access ports.

---

**NON-STERILE GLOVES**

*(e.g., nitrile, latex, medical vinyl)*

Indicated in situations when there is potential for contact with infectious material *(e.g., blood, other body fluids, microorganisms)*.

---

**NON-MEDICAL GLOVES**

*(e.g., vinyl)*

May be used for food handling and some housekeeping procedures *(e.g., cleaning and disinfection)*.

---

**UTILITY GLOVES**

*(e.g., facility, maintenance, central sterile processing)*

Used for manual cleaning of instruments and decontamination with harsh chemicals.

---

**Do**

- **DO** wear gloves to reduce the risk of contamination or exposure to blood, other body fluids, hazardous materials, and transmission of infection.
- **DO** clean hands before putting on gloves for a sterile procedure *(e.g., insertion of catheter or other invasive device)*.
- **DO** clean hands after removing gloves.
- **DO** clean hands and change gloves between each task *(e.g., after contact with a contaminated surface or environment)*.
- **DO** make sure that gloves fit you properly before performing any tasks.
- **DO** ensure the correct type of glove is available if you have skin sensitivity or allergy issues.
- **DO** wear gloves in hemodialysis settings for any contact with the patient or the patient’s equipment.
- **DO** follow your facility’s policy on glove use and remember to consult CDC* and WHO* hand hygiene guidance.

**Don’t**

- **DON’T** re-use or wash gloves (except for utility gloves after being properly cleaned).
- **DON’T** substitute glove use for hand hygiene.
- **DON’T** use non-approved hand lotions.
- **DON’T** use gloves if they are damaged or visibly soiled.
- **DON’T** touch your face when wearing gloves.
- **DON’T** wear the same pair of gloves from one patient to another.
- **DON’T** wear gloves in the hall; consult your facility’s policy for exceptions.
- **DON’T** forget to remove and dispose of gloves properly.

*APIC Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology*