

COVID-19: CARE OF ATTIRE WORN IN HEALTHCARE SETTING

Purpose: To identify proper use of hospital-laundered versus self-laundered scrubs and uniforms

Situation

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The spread of COVID-19 has raised several questions about how to care for hospital linens, personal clothing, work clothing, and footwear. Employees have also asked questions about whether they should bathe or shower before returning home from work.

Background

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- COVID-19 survivability on surfaces ranges and its survivability depends on the type of surface. Various hard surfaces have shown a survivability range of a few hours to three days.
- There is very little scientifically based information regarding COVID-19's ability to survive on fabric.
- The CDC recommends that hospital linen be treated in the same manner as in other circumstances.

Assessment

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As a community we must use the best available evidence to reduce transmission of COVID-19 and properly utilize our available resources.

Recommendation

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- **Hospital-Laundered Scrubs**
 - **Providers and staff working in certain areas, such as the Interventional Platform behind the "Red Line," will continue to have hospital-laundered scrubs provided.**
 - These scrubs should not be worn outside of work.
 - Change into new scrubs upon arrival and remove/return before departure from work.
- **Self-Laundered Uniforms/Scrubs or Personal Clothing**
 - **Stanford Medicine-issued uniforms or scrubs are provided to applicable employees.**
 - **You will be responsible for laundering these scrubs or uniforms.**
 - Providers and staff who are caring for patients outside of the Interventional Platform behind the "Red Line" are not required to wear scrubs from an Infection Control perspective. They may, however, do so based on their standard uniform.
- **Evidence-Based Practice**
 - PPE: Wearing appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) in the workplace when caring for patients reduces exposure to pathogens for our health care workers and their clothing.
 - Routine laundering of general work clothes and scrub attire worn in hospitals and health care environments is considered good practice.
 - Shoes worn at work are not shown to require more disinfection than the disinfection a person performed prior to the current COVID-19 outbreak. Shoe covers are not recommended per CDC Guidelines to be used in caring for patients with COVID-19.

References

- Specific CDC guidance can be found at: <https://www.Cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-prevent-spread.html> and <https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/guidelines/environmental/background/laundry.html>
- Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA) guidance can be found at <https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/etools/hospital/laundry/laundry.html>
- Cleaning product and detergent guidance may be found at the American Chemistry Council. Novel Coronavirus (COVID 19) Fighting Products. Updated March 20, 2020 <https://www.americanchemistry.com/Novel-Coronavirus-Fighting-Products-List.pdf>
- Expert Guidance: Healthcare Personnel Attire in Non-Operating Room Settings, Infection Control and Hospital Epidemiology, 2014; 35(2): 107-121. Available at <https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/infection-control-and-hospital-epidemiology/article/healthcare-personnel-attire-in-nonoperatingroom-settings/9F36A1561FAB959FA65D0B539F7A1719>

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