

Special Pathogens Response Center (SPARC) SOP: Breach of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) in the Special Pathogen Unit (SPU)	
Subject	This procedure will define a process for safely managing a breach of personal protection equipment in the SPU.
Supplies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EPA-registered disinfectant • Personal protective equipment (PPE) for special pathogens • Safety eye wash
Procedure	<p>Types of Breaches in PPE:</p> <p>Outer layer of PPE is torn or ripped (e.g., outer blue gown, outer layer of gloves)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspect the inner layer of PPE for integrity and contamination • If inner layer of PPE is intact, wipe inner layer that was exposed with a purple top wipe or a bleach wipe • Don a new layer of outer PPE <p>Torn inner PPE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess the need for assistance – with any exposure or injury concern, proceed immediately to the doffing area after alerting the Trained Observer (TO) • Determine if closing the tear will decrease risk during doffing (e.g., placing a clean glove on top of a torn glove) • Clean around the area with an EPA-registered disinfectant wipe (one wipe, one swipe) • Close or cover the exposed area, or replace the item to prevent further contamination during doffing, if able • Safe doffing may include adding PPE (e.g., torn gloves with exposed skin, hand hygiene and donning new gloves prior to doffing to reduce continued exposure) • Have an alternative staff member ready to go into the patient’s room as a replacement <p>Displacement of Respiratory Protection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examples include the CAPR helmet sliding down • Determine if fit or placement can be restored without additional exposure • In-room mitigation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Perform hand hygiene ○ Move to the area of least contamination (e.g., away from the patient’s head) ○ Adjust the equipment ○ Perform hand hygiene • If unable to adjust in the room, notify the TO and proceed to the doffing area

	<p>Equipment Failure/Malfunction (power/battery failure, loss of visual acuity due to fogging)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notify the TO immediately • Proceed to the doffing area if there is a power/battery failure for PPE doffing • If fogging occurs, go to an area of the room with least contamination and wait 2-3 minutes for fogging to dissipate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ If fogging does not dissipate, notify TO and proceed to the doffing area <p>Any breach in the inner layers of PPE should be reported to the Occupational Health Service (OHS) immediately after safely doffing. A SAFE report should be entered.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hospital Employees call 984-974-4480 • UNC Employees call 984-974-9119 • OHS will determine the level of exposure and if the staff meets the criteria for a high-risk exposure
References	<p>Stone, L. (2022, November 1). <i>Course: Personal protective equipment (PPE) breaches</i>. NETEC. https://netec.org/2022/10/26/course-ppe-breaches/</p> <p>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2023, June 8). <i>Interim guidance on risk assessment and management of persons with potential ebolavirus or marburgvirus exposure</i>. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. https://www.cdc.gov/quarantine/vhf/interim-guidance-risk-assessment.html</p>
Related Policies	
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