



**POLICIES AND PROCEDURES MANUAL**

System       Department

**Supersedes:**

Biocontainment Unit

Section:

Doffing High Level PPE

Subject:

Number: 1092

Attachments:

Date Effective: March 2015;

March 2007; July 2010; December 2011; March 2013;

Date Reviewed: March 2015; September 2015, August 2018

## Nebraska Biocontainment Unit

**Policy:**

Nebraska Biocontainment Unit (NBU) staff shall doff so as to prevent exposure to a highly hazardous communicable disease.

**Purpose:**

To provide guidelines for Doffing High Level PPE.

**Guidelines:**

- a. A doffing partner shall assist the healthcare worker (HCW) in the removal of the HCW's PPE.
- b. See appendix A: Guidance for doffing partner personal protective equipment.
- c. Upon NBU Activation create a poster to hang in the doffing area(s) that lists the order in which PPE shall be removed. NBU 1092A

**Materials:**

Appropriate PPE for doffing partner

1:10 bleach solution wipes

Clean gloves

Hand sanitizer

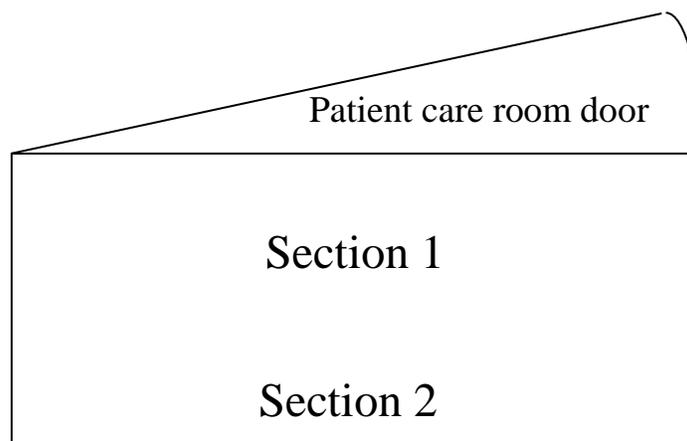
Autoclave bag

Trash containers x 2

Doffing pad

**Prior to the HCW leaving the patient care room:**

- d. The doffing partner shall prepare the doffing area by placing a doffing pad that has been marked with sections 1, 2 (*see Figure 1*) directly outside the patient care room.



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(Figure 1)

**Prior to exiting the patient care room the HCW shall:**

- e. Wipe soiled areas of their gown with bleach wipes.
- f. Remove their 3rd layer gloves using glove in glove technique.
- g. Wipe their 2nd layer gloves with bleach wipes.

**Exiting the Patient Care Room**

- h. Use a clean bleach wipe to open the patient care room door from inside.
- i. Upon exiting the patient care room the HCW shall step directly onto Section 1 of the doffing pad and dispose of the bleach wipe into the trash (*see figure 1*).

**Outer Gloves**

- j. The HCW shall hold their arms low and over the trash container while the doffing partner carefully removes the duct tape from the HCW's cuffs. Place the tape gently into the trash.
- k. Once the tape has been removed the HCW shall remove the long-cuff nitrile gloves using glove in glove technique and dispose of them by placing them gently into the trash.

**Gown Removal**

- l. The doffing partner shall instruct the HCW to turn slightly to facilitate them untying all three ties on the back and side of the surgical gown.
- m. At this time the doffing partner will also untie the ties on the surgical hood.
- n. As the ties are untied the doffing partner shall fold the shoulders of the gown over towards the front of the gown.
- o. The HCW shall cross their arms to grasp the gown at each shoulder and gently remove the gown; rolling it into a bundle in a manner that envelops the outside of the gown.
- p. The HCW shall gently place the gown in the trash.
- q. Both doffing partner and HCW shall remove their gloves, perform hand hygiene and don clean gloves.

**Disposable Boot Removal**

- r. The doffing partner shall remove the HCW's disposable boot covers by rolling them from the top down and turning them inside out; being careful to not touch the HCW's clothing or body.
- s. As each boot cover is removed the HCW shall step into section 2 of the doffing pad (*figure 1*).
- t. The doffing partner shall remove their gloves, perform hand hygiene and don a clean pair of gloves.

**Face Shield**

- u. The HCW removes the face shield by pulling the strap over their head and places the face shield gently in the trash.

**Surgical Hood**

- v. The HCW shall remove the hood by grasping it on top to pull it off and gently place it in the trash.
- w. The HCW shall remove their gloves, perform hand hygiene and don clean gloves.

## **N95 Respirator**

- x. The HCW removes their N95 Respirator by firmly grasping the lower portion below the chin. At the same time using the opposite hand, reach behind their head to pull each strap of the N95 respirator over their head.
- y. Gently place the N95 respirator in the trash (front side facing down).
- z. The HCW will don a surgical mask after performing hand hygiene.

## **Shoe cleaning**

- aa. The doffing partner shall bleach wipe each shoe top, sides and bottom.
- bb. As each shoe is cleaned, the HCW shall step off the doffing pad onto the floor.

## **Health Care Worker Leaves the Doffing Area**

- cc. The HCW shall proceed directly to the hallway sink to wash their hands and forearms with soap and water and don clean gloves.
- dd. The HCW shall wait in the warm zone in the designated area until notified to proceed to the shower.
- ee. After showering, the HCW shall exit the biocontainment unit for rest and rehydration.

## **Clean up**

- ff. The doffing partner shall gently fold over the sides of the doffing pad and roll it up to enclose the surface that was exposed to the HCW.
- gg. Gently place the bundle into the trash.
- hh. Wipe the walls and area(s) outside the doffing pad that may have been exposed to the HCWs PPE with bleach wipes and dispose of the wipes in the trash.
- ii. The doffing partner shall remove the autoclave bag from the trash container.
- jj. Gently and loosely gather the neck of the bag and secure it with autoclave tape.
- kk. Do not express any trapped air from the bag.
- ll. Place the bag in the designated area until it is time to autoclave it.
- mm. Follow NBU Policy 1167 Waste Process to remove the waste from the NBU.

## **Staff Accountability:**

Nebraska Biocontainment Unit Leadership  
Nebraska Biocontainment Unit Policy and Procedure Workgroup  
Infection Control Department

## **Appendix A: Guidance for doffing partner personal protective equipment.**

- nn. A person wearing not less than High Level PPE shall remain outside the patient care room to assist with doffing those providing patient care.
- oo. The doffing partner will assist with doffing all individuals who exit the patient care rooms. If 2 individuals need to exit the room they will be assisted one at a time.
- pp. Only doffing partners may assist with doffing.
- qq. Persons waiting to be doffed are to remain in the patient care room until the doffing partner is prepared to assist with doffing.
- rr. When all individuals have been assisted with doffing, the doffing partner will have their PPE removed by the oncoming doffing partner. If the doffing partner is the last person in PPE after patient discharge they will doff without assistance, but under the guidance of the last person they doffed who will remain at a safe distance wearing gloves and a surgical mask.

**Department Approval**

Signed | s |:

Title:

Department:

**Administrative Approval**

Signed | s |:

Title: