

3M Protective Coveralls for Potential Coronavirus Exposure

Description

3M has received several inquiries regarding the selection and use of appropriate protective coveralls for potential exposures to coronaviruses. Currently there are no guidelines from the World Health Organization (WHO), the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), nor the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regarding use of coveralls for protection from the COVID-19 coronavirus during patient care. There is, however, guidance from both the WHO and CDC regarding protective clothing for Healthcare Personnel. There are no recommendations for the general public to use protective clothing for potential exposures to the COVID-19 coronavirus.

CDC

The CDC has published guidance for healthcare professionals, titled "[Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Patients with Known or Patients Under Investigation for 2019 Novel Coronavirus \(2019-nCoV\) in a Healthcare Setting](#)."¹ In this guidance CDC indicates the use of a clean isolation gown upon entry to a patient room or area.

Additionally, in the "[Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) Frequently Asked Questions about Personal Protective Equipment](#)"² the CDC indicates it is acceptable for Emergency Medical Services (EMS) to wear coveralls as an alternative to gowns when caring for and transporting patients who are suspected to have COVID-19 due to the unique challenges in this type of setting. They note the additional coverage provided by coveralls may be needed for some of the work tasks involved in transporting patients. The CDC also points out the potential for heat stress due to the additional coverage.

WHO

In the March 19, 2020 Interim guidance titled "Infection prevention and control during health care when COVID-19 is suspected"³ WHO indicates that Healthcare Workers "should wear a clean, non-sterile, long-sleeved gown" and that "the use of boots, coverall and apron is not required during routine care."

Selection

If a determination is made to use protective coveralls, then the selection of appropriate protective coveralls should be based upon a site-specific risk assessment conducted by qualified individuals. One reference that although not COVID-19 specific is cited in the PPE FAQ, is CDC's guidance "[Considerations for Selecting Protective Clothing used in Healthcare for Protection against Microorganisms in Blood and Body Fluids](#)"⁴. This document stresses the importance of a risk assessment and provides information regarding standards and test methods that define barrier properties for healthcare employers to make an informed decision regarding selection of protective clothing such as gowns and coveralls. The guidance document contains a section comparing test methods of both gowns and coveralls and states:

"Standards are available to define the performance requirements for clothing or clothing materials used to protect against infectious agents. ANSI/AAMI PB70, EN 13795, EN 14126, and NFPA 1999 are examples of standards frequently used in the United States and Europe."

3M provides information regarding 3M™ Protective Coveralls in order to assist purchasers that have decided to use coveralls as a protective clothing option. Please refer to product user instructions, packaging, labeling, and technical data sheets for more information regarding specific models. Please also note that, in general, protective coveralls offering the highest levels

of protection from infectious agents, such as the 3M Protective Coverall 4570 and 3M Protective Coverall 4565, are also the least breathable and have the potential to contribute to hazards related to heat stress and dehydration.

For information regarding any of the 3M Protective Coveralls, please visit the [3M website](#) or contact your local 3M representative.

References

- 1) Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Patients with Confirmed Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) or Persons Under Investigation for COVID-19 in Healthcare Settings. U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Updated February 21, 2020, (Available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/hcp/infection-control.html>)
- 2) Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-1) Frequently Asked Questions about Personal Protective Equipment. U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Page last reviewed February 29, 2020. (Available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/respirator-use-faq.html>)
- 3) Infection prevention and control during health care when COVID-19 is suspected Interim guidance. Geneva: World Health Organization; 19 March 2020. (Available at: [https://www.who.int/publications-detail/infection-prevention-and-control-during-health-care-when-novel-coronavirus-\(ncov\)-infection-is-suspected-20200125](https://www.who.int/publications-detail/infection-prevention-and-control-during-health-care-when-novel-coronavirus-(ncov)-infection-is-suspected-20200125))
- 4) Considerations for Selecting Protective Clothing used in Healthcare for Protection against Microorganisms in Blood and Body Fluids. U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Viewed Feb 3, 2020. (Available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/npptl/topics/protectiveclothing>)

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