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 2019-nCoV coronavirus. There is, however, some guidance from both the WHO and CDC regarding protective clothing for Healthcare Personnel. There are no recommendations for people to use protective clothing for potential exposures to the 2019-nCoV coronavirus outside of the healthcare setting.

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.” In this guidance CDC indicates the use of a clean isolation gown upon entry to a patient room or area.

WHO

Similarly, in a January 25, 2020 guidance titled “Infection prevention and control during health care when novel coronavirus (nCoV) infection is suspected.” 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.

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.

Selection of protective coveralls for use in connection with potential exposure to the 2019-nCoV coronavirus should be based primarily on the hazards and potential exposures and need for protection. However, work conditions, environmental conditions, tasks and accessibility to decontamination facilities should also be considered when selecting protective coveralls.
References

