

GLOVE USE GUIDANCE FOR Sars-CoV-2

Sars-CoV-2 (COVID-19) cannot be absorbed through the skin; therefore, glove use to protect yourself has limitations. The main route of COVID-19 exposure is from an infected person's cough, sneeze or other respiratory secretion, entering your mouth or nose via close contact, usually closer than approximately 6 feet.

A second route of exposure has been shown to be from touching contaminated surfaces and then touching one's mouth, nose, or possibly eyes prior to washing with soap or using approved sanitizer. Gloves provide protection when touching contaminated surfaces, only when taken off properly and after sufficient hand washing, provided no cross contamination has occurred.

Glove use, is always appropriate however, when using cleaners that can damage your skin to kill surface COVID-19.

Generally, **gloves should only be used when contamination is known to be or suspected to be present and which cannot be removed from the surface prior to contact** with it i.e. disinfected using an EPA approved cleaner and sufficient dwell or "wet time", which is chemical dependent.

Overusing gloves when they offer no extra protection risks reducing the supply chain and taking them from workers in inherently contaminated environments, such as healthcare.

Additionally, misusing gloves poses a greater risk than touching items carefully, not touching your face and washing your hands after completing a task and many times, provides a false sense of security.

If you are choosing to wear gloves during the course of your work, follow these instructions.

- 1) Determine and document (Table 1) what tasks gloves would offer you protection and wear them **only during those tasks. You may also document this in a JHA. Wearing gloves without a documented assessment is not allowed.**

Note: if there is a way to change the work to minimize risk to where PPE (Personal Protective Equipment e.g. gloves) is not required, that must be attempted first.

HUMBOLDT STATE UNIVERSITY

Risk Management and Safety Services

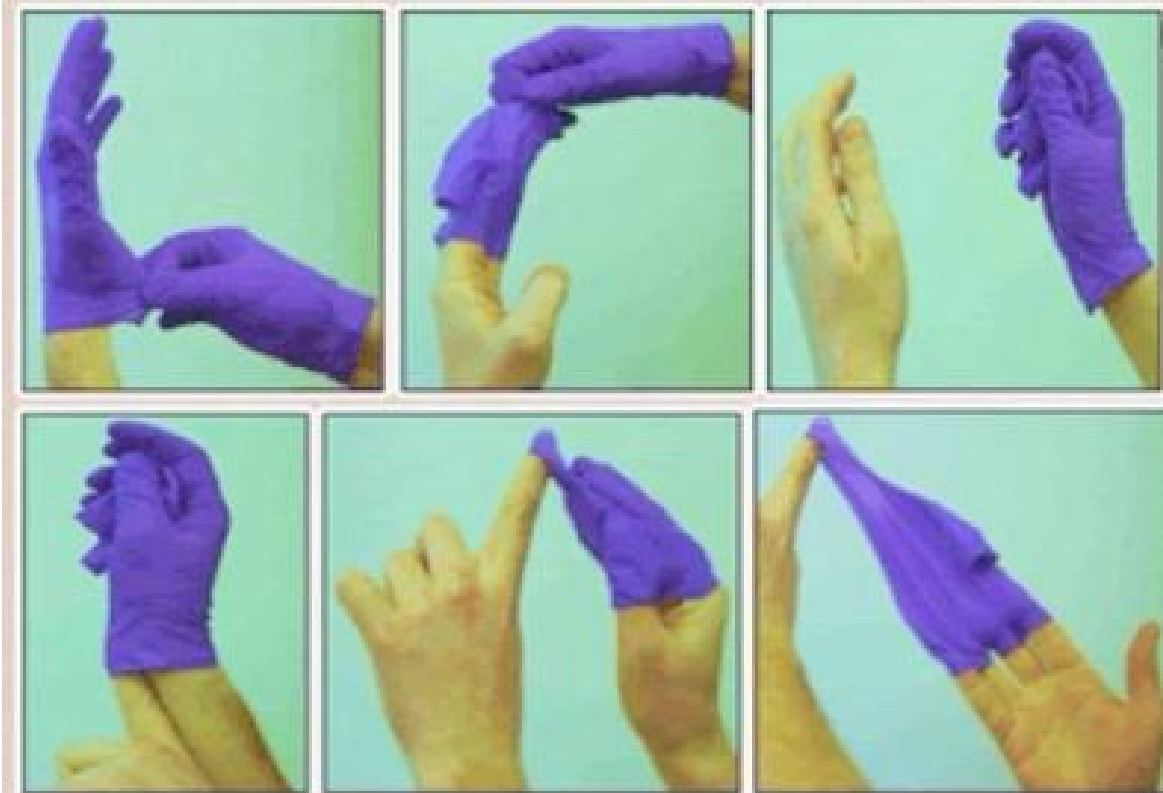
Example: sorting mail (since mail cannot be disinfected without damaging it)

- 2) Make sure your hands are clean
- 3) Inspect gloves for tears or degradation
- 4) Put gloves on
- 5) Follow standard internal sorting process
 - a. You must not to engage in any other activity while performing this task, such as touching your phone, water bottle or computer or any other item not related to this task.
 - i. If you had come into contact with the virus while doing this task, you would then transfer the virus from your gloves to every other object you touched- this is cross contamination.
 1. Then, when you take your gloves off and touch those same surfaces, you would then contaminate yourself with the virus.
- 6) After the task is complete, remove the gloves properly following the doffing guide(Figure 1) and dispose of them in the trash
- 7) Wash your hands.
- 8) Decontaminate all objects that were using during the task.

It is never appropriate to wear them throughout your shift while touching multiple surfaces, as this spreads contamination. If you have concerns about the possibility of extensive surface contamination throughout the workplace please notify your supervisor.

Remaining 6 feet away from all others, washing your hands throughout the day, routinely disinfecting all high touch surfaces and not touching your face, continue to be your best protection against illness.

Figure 1



HOW TO REMOVE GLOVES

1. Remove gloves by gripping one glove on the outside near the cuff & peel it off, inside out
2. Cup the inside-out glove with the gloved hand
3. Use 2 fingers of the bare hand near the cuff to peel the second glove off, with the first glove inside it
4. Dispose of gloves properly

HUMBOLDT STATE UNIVERSITY

Risk Management and Safety Services

Table 1

High Hazard Task	Job Classifications & Operations With Exposure	Personal Protection required (<i>list type[s]</i>)