

# Module 7 - Safety and Security

## Objectives:

- List priorities for safety and security
- Identify the components of proper hand hygiene and use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

## Overview

Your personal safety and the safety of the patients, visitors, and other volunteers are paramount.

If you notice a life-threatening situation, remove patients or visitors who can walk from danger and direct them through the nearest safe exit. Then help to isolate or move others.

Be sure to contact the safety officer as quickly as possible.

In an emergency, personnel without an ID may be denied access. Control of entry and exit from the facility or site may be done to maintain a secure environment and minimize unauthorized access.

You must carry your usual work or volunteer specific identification with you at all times.



## Hand Hygiene

Performing hand hygiene is the easiest, and in most cases, the most important measure you can take to stop the spread of infectious organisms. Be sure to practice hand hygiene before and after each patient contact.

Use of soap and running water is best. Rub your hands together for at least 20 seconds.

- Wash all parts of your hands, including wrists and between fingers and under fingernails
- Rinse your hands well under running water
- Air dry or use a clean towel to dry your hands and turn off the faucet.

If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Alcohol-based hand sanitizers can quickly reduce the number of germs on hands in some situations, but sanitizers do **not** eliminate all types of germs.

- Push the dispenser once, covering all surfaces of your hands with the solution, rubbing hands together until the solution dries (about 15 seconds).
- There is no need to rinse your hands.

## **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**

During a hazardous materials incident, public health emergency, terrorist event, or other disaster, responders frequently wear personal protective equipment (PPE). PPE is designed to protect the skin and the mucous membranes of the eyes, nose, and mouth of health professionals from exposure to blood or other potentially infectious material.

PPE includes gloves, protective clothing and respiratory protection apparatus designed to prevent exposure to chemical, biological, and/or radiological materials.

If there is a need for specialized equipment, only those with prior education and training in the use of this equipment will be provided with the equipment and allowed to enter the area of the incident where they are needed. All other volunteers will remain in an area that is safe.

You will not be expected to use equipment that you are not trained to use, or that you are not comfortable using. You may refuse to wear the equipment and to enter a contaminated area at any time. Your supervisor will be in charge of assigning you a role, and should be told of any training in the use of PPE you have had, or a preference to not fill that role.

### *Using Gloves*

Gloves are worn to:

- Provide a protective barrier for and to prevent contamination of hands when touching or possibly touching blood, body fluids, secretions, excretions, mucous membranes, and non-intact skin.
- Reduce the likelihood that microorganisms present on the hands will be transmitted to patients or other volunteers or staff. Gloves may also be used during the handling of food products.

Gloves must be changed between patient contact or when contaminated and disposed of in specially provided waste containers. Hand washing must be performed after gloves are removed.



### *Gowns, Masks and Eye Protection*

Gowns are worn to:

- Protect the skin and prevent soiling of clothing during patient care or activities that are likely to generate splashes or sprays of blood or body fluids.
- Prevent the transmission of microorganisms to other patients, health care workers or volunteers.

Masks and eye protection are worn to:

- Protect mucous membranes of the, eyes, nose, and mouth during patient care or activities that are likely to generate splashes of blood or body fluids.

Gowns, masks and gloves should be removed and disposed of in specially provided biological waste containers. Hand hygiene must be performed after removing gowns or masks.



### **References and Resources**

*Content for this lesson was taken from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website.*

[www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)

### **Summary**

- Your personal safety and the safety of the patients, visitors, and other volunteers are paramount.
- Volunteers must be able to do proper hand hygiene and use personal protective equipment (PPE)

## Test Your Knowledge

7.1	<b>What should you do if you notice a life-threatening situation? Check one reply.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> 1. Verify that you think the situation is dangerous</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> 2. Call 911 about the situation, providing full details</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> 3. Contact the public affairs officer about the situation</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> 4. Formulate an immediate plan to address the situation</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> 5. Direct patients and visitors to the nearest safe exit</li></ul>
7.2	<b>Which of the following are true about Hand hygiene</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> 1. It is the easiest way to stop the spread of organisms.</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> 2. Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> 3. Wash your hands, wrists, between fingers, and under nails.</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> 4. Use a waterless hand hygiene solution if no running water.</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> 5. All of the above</li></ul>
7.3	<b>Which statement is TRUE about PPE?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> 1. PPE is an acronym for partial protection in emergencies to prevent trauma.</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> 2. PPE is designed to prevent exposure to chemical, biological, and radiological materials.</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> 3. If there is an immediate need to use PPE, education and training will not be required.</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> 4. If your supervisor instructs you to enter a contaminated area, you must follow the order.</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> 5. Gloves and paper gowns are not sufficient protection to be labeled as part of PPE.</li></ul>

## **Correct Answers**

7.1: 5

7.2: 5

7.3: 2