

Personal Protective Equipment

Doffing PPE



Proper removal of PPE (referred to as “doffing”) after on-farm tasks is critical during animal health emergencies to avoid the spread of disease from the response site. This Just-in-Time handout describes steps to properly doff or take off Level C PPE.

Doffing Location and Safety

- Doffing of PPE begins on the designated “dirty side” or in the Hot Zone for the site.
- Safe and effective removal (doffing) of Level C (or higher level) PPE should be conducted using the buddy system - two responders working cooperatively. The buddy should remain in full PPE.
- Improper doffing can cause unintended cross-contamination, pathogen spread, and responder exposure.
 - Avoid touching outer surfaces to prevent cross-contamination of underlying clothing.
 - Trap contaminants within items by turning them inside out as they are removed.

PPE Removal

- Brush any organic materials from the exterior surfaces of the PPE and the bottom of boots/boot covers.
- Enter the Warm Zone to decontaminate PPE and equipment.
- Remove all tape from the coveralls, including the sleeves, boots, and zipper area (and facepiece, if applied). Dispose of tape in provided containers.
- Unzip the protective coveralls.
- Remove the outer (chemical-resistant) gloves by turning one inside out and then using the inner surface of that glove to remove the second glove.
- Reach inside the hood and carefully roll it back. Avoid touching the outer surface.
- Pull the protective coveralls off the shoulders and down the body, turning it inside out to keep any residual contamination off underlying clothing.
- Carefully remove disposable boot covers, if they were worn. Scrub the chemical-resistant boots with disinfectant, then remove them.
 - This step is easiest while sitting on a stool or some other support item.
- Remove the chemical-resistant suit completely and carefully step out of it.
 - Only touch the inner surfaces of the protective suit.
 - Dispose of coveralls in a provided container.



- Remove your goggles and respirator. Place them in the designated container for decontamination or disposal.
- Remove the inner gloves by turning them inside out as you did with the outer gloves. Dispose of gloves in a provided container.

Final Steps

- Immediately after doffing all PPE, wash hands thoroughly and blow your nose to clear your respiratory passages.
- As soon as possible, take a complete shower and launder inner clothing.
- Follow additional response guidelines, as required for the response, such as staying off farms for 72 hours or washing vehicles.



Additional [Just-In-Time training resources](#) can be found on the CFSPH website.

Development of this resource was funded through the USDA National Animal Health Preparedness and Response Program.

