

Personal Protective Equipment

Donning PPE



Proper donning or putting on personal protective equipment helps to protect responders from hazards and prevent disease spread during an animal disease emergency. This handout highlights key steps in donning Level C PPE prior to entry onto an infected premises.

Donning Location

Donning of PPE should occur either:

- Immediately outside your vehicle, if arriving at the site alone, or
- In the designated Cold Zone during larger response events.

Gather Equipment

Before donning Level C PPE, gather all PPE items and any supplies that will be needed.

- Tear-resistant (e.g., Tyvek®) or chemical-resistant coveralls (e.g., Tychem®) with foot pouches and a hood
- An N-95 or reusable air-purifying respirator
- Rubber boots, preferably steel-toed
- Goggles, a face shield if needed
- Two pairs of disposable gloves, one of which should be chemical resistant
- Cut-resistant gloves if performing necropsy
- Chemical-resistant tape
- Blunt-nosed scissors

Don't Forget

- Any items needed to perform tasks onsite, such as blood or sample collection supplies, necropsy tools, biohazard bags, and a permanent marker.
- If a phone is necessary, it should be placed in a waterproof bag to allow for disinfection upon exit.
- A cooling vest or insulating clothing may be needed depending on weather conditions.

Before Donning PPE

- Inspect all PPE items for damage – rips, tears, defects or imperfections. Do not use items if they are defective.
- Cut pieces of chemical-resistant tape.
 - Pieces should be long enough to wrap around the top of boots, around wrists, around the hood opening, and cover the entire coverall zipper.
 - Have extra pieces ready in case one gets stuck to itself and becomes unusable during the donning process.
 - Fold a small section at one end of each tape piece to form a tab for easier removal upon exiting.
- Change out of street clothing (i.e., put on scrub top and pants).



Donning PPE: From Bottom to Top

- Remove street shoes; insert stocking feet into the foot pouches of the protective coveralls.
- Pull the protective suit up, insert arms into the sleeves, and pull the suit over your shoulders. DO NOT put on the hood yet. Zip the suit part way up.
- Step into water-resistant or chemical-resistant boots. Use caution so you do not trip or fall during this step. Put on disposable boot covers, if required.
- Using the buddy system, wrap a chemical-resistant tape strip around the top of the boot, attaching it to the protective suit. This helps to ensure no fluid enters the boot from outside. Be sure to allow room for bending and movement, to avoid rips during tasks, and place the tape tab created in an accessible location for easy removal.
- Pull on the first pair of gloves; these may be latex or nitrile and serve as an inner layer of protection for the hands.
- Put on the assigned respirator – N95 or air-purifying respirator. Perform the required seal check.
- If eye protection is not part of the respirator, put on goggles, and a face shield if necessary. Do not disrupt the respirator seal.
- Pull on the suit hood, ensuring hair and ears are covered. Do not disrupt the respirator seal.
- Zip up the protective coveralls completely. Seal the length of its zipper with chemical-resistant tape. Leave a tab on the tape at the top to help with removal.
- If a full-face respirator is required, place tape around the facepiece to completely seal the hood of the coveralls to the respirator. Be sure to cover the area under the chin as well.
- Put a pair of chemical-resistant gloves over the inner gloves. Pull the cuffs of the protective coveralls over the gloves. Stretch arms out to ensure there is room for movement.
- Using the buddy system, wrap chemical-resistant tape around each wrist at the junction of the glove and sleeve cuff. Leave enough give so arms can move freely without ripping. Ensure the tab on the tape is accessible to aid in removal.
- Double-check to ensure all junctions have a tape seal.
- If using the “buddy system”, assist your partner in donning their PPE.
- Once PPE is on, gather your supplies and enter the site to perform your duties.



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

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