



COVID-19 Glove Policy

SUBJECT: COVID-19 Glove Policy for County Employees

PURPOSE: To establish and communicate a policy for the use of gloves in the workplace for county employees.

SCOPE: This outlines the County's glove policy during the COVID-19 pandemic for county employees.

AUTHORITY: Code of Maryland Regulations, Sec. 10.06.01.06

RESPONSIBILITY:

1. The Appointing Authorities are responsible for communicating and enforcing the glove policy, as directed by the Health Officer.
2. All employees are required to adhere to the guidelines set forth in this policy.

GENERAL STATEMENT: In accordance with Executive Order 16-2020, Continued Declaration of a Local State of Emergency for Prince George's County, Maryland dated July 7, 2020, and in order to control and medically contain 2019 Novel Coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) and the disease that it causes – Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), the Health Officer has established a glove policy for county employees.

DEFINITIONS:

COVID-19 (Coronavirus) – An illness caused by the virus, 2019 Novel Coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) that is spread from person to person.

GLOVE POLICY: The use of gloves can provide a false sense of security. Since gloves do not kill the Coronavirus, a person wearing gloves is able to touch contaminated surfaces and transfer the virus to themselves. Instead, all employees must practice proper hand hygiene and cough and sneeze etiquette, along with regular hand washing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If unable to wash hands with soap and water, employees can use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol. Key times to clean hands include:

- Before and after work shifts and work breaks;
- After blowing one's nose, coughing, or sneezing;
- After using the restroom;
- Before eating or preparing food;
- Before putting on, touching, or removing cloth face coverings;
- After touching surfaces or objects frequently used or touched by others (such as door handles, equipment, etc.)
- Before and after touching one's eyes, nose or mouth.

Per CDC Guidelines, the use of gloves is not recommended unless:

1. Gloves are required or recommended per OSHA Standards due to the nature of the employee's work duties; or

2. An employee is cleaning or disinfecting surfaces or areas in the workplace.

In the event that the use of gloves is required, the employee must follow OSHA standards for their removal and disposal.

COMPLIANCE: Employees must adhere to guidance and recommendations within this policy.



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