

## Coffee with Infection Prevention & Control

### Questions & Answers on Common Doffing Mistakes and PPE Use

- 1. Are open back apron type disposable gown acceptable PPE for COVID testing given home care clinicians still have to take the swab to the lab and also not able to get our scrubs laundered like the acute staff?**

Open back gowns were approved for all sites that received them by the PPE Provincial Working Group which includes Infection Prevention and Control, Workplace Health, and the Ministry of Health.

- 2. Would asking home bound patients to “air out” their home for an hour before home testing be reasonable like the WCB smoking policy for home visit?**

BCCDC has talked about opening windows for COVID positive patients to improve airflow. Because COVID is spread by droplet, opening the window wouldn't necessarily help stop transmission if the droplets are already on household surfaces. It is most important to clean your hands and wear proper PPE when interacting with COVID patients.

- 3. Where do we get these nursing bags you mentioned?**

[Infection Prevention and Control Routine Practices and Home and Community Care](#) mentions “Professional Supply Bags” but does not specify any specific bag. We recommend a bag (backpack, rolling suitcase, etc.) with separate compartments for clean and dirty and a wipeable exterior. It is important to perform hand hygiene before reaching into bag. Do not bring the bag into the home of a patient on precautions to avoid contamination.

- 4. Is it safe to use face shield with foam/sponge? How can you clean the foam/sponge properly? Home care nurses don't have a “cleaning station” while on the road. Our car has become the “dirty” area.**

Face shields should be dedicated to a single individual, this way it is only being contaminated by your own sweat. Clean the face shield often any cleaner (starting from the inside). Eventually the foam will break down, when this occurs discard and use new shield.

Clean and disinfect high touch points in car once a day.

- 5. Mask use is increasingly normalized in the event people can't keep 6 feet apart. The public has been confused that healthcare workers are not asking patient to mask for home or office visits. What should we say?**

Mask use is setting dependent. If a patient is asymptomatic and coming to an ambulatory clinic they will have been pre-screened and the seating is spaced for social distancing, so there is no need to wear a mask (unless they provide their own and choose to do so). If a patient comes to an ambulatory setting and is symptomatic they will be provided a mask. In the homecare setting, we would equate the patients home to a hospital room, the staff would wear PPE but masks are not necessary for the patient/client/resident.