

Self- and Buddy- Decontamination Procedures



- Remove all clothing. Potentially contaminated clothing that would normally be removed over the head (e.g., undershirts) should be cut off. Place all clothing in a plastic bag and seal.
- Remove all other external items from contact with the body such as hearing aids, artificial limbs, jewelry, watches, toupees, and wigs.
- Bag any valuables in a separate bag and seal.
- Decontaminate hands by washing with soap and water.
- Remove eyeglasses and contact lenses. Eyeglasses and prosthetic devices can be expediently decontaminated by washing with a detergent soap and hot water solution and rinsing thoroughly with plain water. Replace contact lenses with new ones.
- Flush the eyes with large amounts of warm water,
- Wash hands, face and hair with soap and warm water, followed by a thorough rinse with lukewarm water. This is best done in a shower.
- Decontaminate other body surfaces likely to have been contaminated by washing with copious amounts of lukewarm soapy water and rinsing with warm water, This is best done in a shower.
- Change into uncontaminated clothing. Clothing stored in closets or drawers are likely to be uncontaminated.
- Follow instructions to proceed to the nearest decontamination station, carrying critical items in a sealed plastic bag.
- Buddy-decontamination involves assisting others implement the above steps.

Ambulatory Patient Procedures at Decontamination Stations



- Instruct patient to enter decontamination station.
- Instruct patient to remove all clothing, personal possessions and removable items.
- Instruct patient to place all items except those that can be decontaminated (such as eyeglasses, rings, or canes) in a plastic bag and seal. Leather items cannot be decontaminated.
- Instruct patient to shower or use PPE suited helper to shower with liquid soap and warm water. Carefully clean under the armpits and the groin.
- Instruct patient to thoroughly rinse with warm water or use PPE suited helper to rinse
- Instruct patient to dry with clean towel and dispose of towel.
- Instruct patient to don dry clothing such as scrubs or a tyvek suit.
- Provide a wristband or tag indication decon has been completed.
- Guide patient to the cold zone observation and screening area.

Non-ambulatory Patient Procedures at Decontamination Stations



- Wear appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- Bring the patient into decontamination station on a backboard or stretcher.
- Cut away or remove patient's clothing and place in a bag and seal.
- Starting with the front, spray or wipe one quarter of the patient at a time.
- Role the patient to their side, spray and wipe the back from highest to lowest point.
- Thoroughly rinse the patient.
- Dry the patient with a clean towel.
- Place the patient on a clean board or stretcher.
- Cover patient with a clean blanket.
- Place a wristband or tag on the patient.
- Transport the patient to the cold zone observation or treatment area.