

216 Task 2 Selecting and using PPE when working with animals

Personal protective equipment (PPE) is used to minimise a risk to health and safety and the employer must provide appropriate PPE to workers and other people at the workplace.

Workers and other persons at the workplace must wear PPE in accordance with any information, training or reasonable instruction that the employer provides.

When selected and used properly, PPE forms part of managing infection risks from exposure to Hendra virus and other zoonoses. PPE when used on its own tends to be the least effective way to manage risks. It should be used to supplement higher level control measures.

How to select PPE

Within each of these categories of PPE there is a range of makes and models that provide varying levels of protection. You should select items of PPE that provide you with the best protection for the circumstances you are dealing with. For example, safety glasses may provide suitable protection where there is a low level of contact with blood and body fluids but a face shield or safety goggles provides more protection where a higher level of contact with blood and body fluids is anticipated.

How to use PPE

You should use disposable (single-use) PPE where possible. Do not reuse items that are intended for single use only.

Make sure that reusable PPE (e.g. eye/face protection, rubber boots) is maintained, repaired and replaced so that it continues to minimise risk.

To minimise cross-contamination, separate the transition area into clean and dirty sides. Put on PPE, prepare sampling equipment and prepare disinfectant solutions on the clean side, before entering the hot zone. Once inside the hot zone, avoid adjusting or touching the PPE. On leaving the hot zone, return to the transition area and carefully remove PPE, decontaminate equipment and perform hand hygiene on the dirty side.

Take care when removing PPE to avoid contamination. For example, do not touch potentially contaminated surfaces of PPE and perform hand hygiene before removing PPE from the face.

Types of PPE

- Gloves
- Eye and face protection
- Protective clothing
- Respiratory protective equipment (RPE)
- Protective footwear



216 Task 2 Selecting and using PPE when working with animals

Name: _____

1. What does PPE stand for?
2. What is PPE used for?
3. When might safety glasses provide suitable protection?
4. What items should you not reuse?
5. How should you minimise cross contamination?
6. What should you do once inside the hot zone?
7. What should you do before removing PPE from the face?