

During EVD outbreaks, IPC practices are essential to keep health care workers (HCW)¹ safe and free of infection while caring for suspected or confirmed EVD patients. IPC best practices have evolved based on lessons learned from previous EVD outbreaks. This document highlights changes to IPC practices recommended for current and future outbreaks.

OLD IPC PRACTICE	NEW IPC PRACTICE
 <p>SPRAYING</p> <p>Spraying with chlorine solution was widely used throughout previous EVD outbreaks in Africa: for dead bodies, disinfection of personal protective equipment (PPE), on health care workers' scrubs and skin, etc.</p> <p>This practice is no longer recommended; it has caused many adverse events in HCWs.²</p>	 <p>NO SPRAYING</p> <p>Instead of spraying with a chlorine solution, remove any organic material with a towel using soap or detergent and water first, then disinfect using a disinfectant (i.e., 70% alcohol and/or chlorine).</p>
 <p>RESPIRATORS (i.e., N-95, FFP2, KN95)</p> <p>During previous EVD outbreaks in Africa, little information was known about EVD transmission. We now know that it is not airborne, so a respirator is not needed.²</p>	 <p>SURGICAL OR MEDICAL MASKS</p> <p>EVD requires both droplet and contact precautions; contact precautions are most critical. Respirators are not required when in isolation spaces and/or Ebola treatment units with suspected or confirmed patients. Use a mask or a mask and face shield together.</p>
 <p>CHLORINE FOR HAND HYGIENE</p> <p>Using 0.05% chlorine on bare or gloved hands is no longer recommended unless no other alternative to hand hygiene is available.²</p>	 <p>ALCOHOL BASED HAND RUB (ABHR) AND/OR SOAP AND WATER</p> <p>If hands are visibly soiled, use soap and water to remove organic material. Then use a disinfectant (i.e., 70% alcohol). If hands are not visibly soiled, use alcohol-based handrub (ABHR). Chlorine of 0.05% may be used in emergency situations while waiting for ABHR.</p>

1 Health care workers are all people engaged in work actions whose primary intent is to improve health, including doctors, nurses, lab technicians, cleaning staff, drivers, social workers, and administrators, among others." WHO Charter – [Health worker safety: a priority for patient safety](#). Students and volunteers should also be included.

2 Source: WHO (2014). https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/130596/WHO_HIS_SDS_2014.4_eng.pdf

OLD IPC PRACTICE	NEW IPC PRACTICE
 <p>BURN LINEN</p> <p>During previous EVD outbreaks in Africa, linen, patient personal items (such as clothes and other belongings), etc. would have been burned based on the principle that all items in the "dirty" or "contaminated" zone must be burned.²</p>	 <p>LAUNDER LINEN</p> <p>If washing machines are available, use them for soiled linen, removing any organic material before putting them into a machine. If using low temperature laundering, wash linen with detergent and water, rinse and then soak in 0.05% chlorine solution for approximately 15-30 minutes. Linen should then be dried. If no washing machine is available, empty linen into a large drum container of hot water (if available) and soap. Soak the linen in this drum and make sure it is totally covered with water. Use a stick to stir (never a hand); then throw out the water and refill the drum with 0.05% chlorine solution and soak for 15-30 minutes. Remove the linen and then rinse in clean water. Remove excess water and spread out to dry.</p>
 <p>MASKS/GOGGLES OVER HOOD</p> <p>During previous outbreaks in Africa, HCW would place the straps of their masks and goggles over the hood of their gown/coveralls for ease of removal during doffing.</p>	 <p>MASKS/GOGGLES UNDER HOOD</p> <p>Having the straps of goggles and masks under the hood ensures correct placement of each item, and the hood prevents the goggles and masks from falling off or injuring the health worker, which can lead to HCWs potentially contaminating themselves.</p>
 <p>TAPING GLOVES TO GOWN/COVERALL</p> <p>During previous EVD outbreaks, HCW would tape their sleeves to their gloves. This practice caused gloves and gown/coverall sleeves to tear when removing the tape, potentially contaminating the health care workers' hands.</p>	 <p>OUTER GLOVE OVER TOP OF SLEEVE OF GOWN/COVERALL</p> <p>A longer surgical glove should be placed over the sleeve instead of a short surgical glove when possible to keep the glove and sleeve in the correct placement.</p>