

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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Use of Coveralls during the COVID-19 Pandemic – May 1, 2020

There is currently a shortage of isolation gowns in Connecticut. As a strategy for optimizing the supply of isolation gowns, CDC recommends shifting gown use towards cloth isolations.¹ Coveralls are also a consideration for use when isolation gowns are in short supply. Coveralls are often used by hazardous material clean-up crew and other first responders. Coveralls may also be considered for use by EMS providers. DuPont Tyvek® coveralls are currently being used as personal protective equipment (PPE) during the care of patients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19.

Coveralls may be single-use or multiple-use. Coveralls designed for multiple use should be inspected before donning to assure the material and seams have not been damaged.

- DuPont Tyvek® 400 coveralls are indicated for single-use. They are not intended for reuse and DuPont does not recommend washing and disinfecting them.²
- DuPont has some considerations for disinfection and reuse of Tyvek® garments.³ DPH does not recommend reuse. DuPont does not endorse these methods, cannot guarantee the coveralls will meet standards once disinfection methods are used, and have no information about the efficacy of these methods against SARS-CoV-2.

Extended use of isolation gowns is a strategy for PPE conservation, and the same consideration of extended use may also be applied to coveralls.¹ During extended use, the user minimizes the number of times PPE is doffed by keeping the PPE on between patients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19. Bundling breaks from direct patient care allows for extended use, thereby minimizing the risks of doffing PPE and the number of single-use gowns or coveralls that are used.

Healthcare personnel (HCP) who are unfamiliar with the use of coveralls must be trained and practiced in how to don and doff them prior to using as PPE for patient care. Coveralls should be changed if they are soiled, grossly contaminated, or damaged. HCP should be trained on how to doff coveralls to prevent self-contamination. Inappropriate technique during the doffing process can put the user at risk for exposure to a contaminated surface.

¹CDC. Strategies for Optimizing the Supply of Isolation Gowns: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/ppe-strategy/isolation-gowns.html>

²Dupont. DuPont Safety & PPE response to COVID-19: https://www.dupont.com/content/dam/dupont/amer/us/en/personal-protection/public/documents/en/Safety_COVID-19_Response_Letter_FAQ.pdf

³Dupont. Considerations for healthcare, first responders, and occupational health professionals on the disinfection and reuse of Tyvek® garments during the COVID-19 pandemic: https://www.dupont.com/content/dam/dupont/amer/us/en/personal-protection/public/documents/en/COVID-19_Tyvek_Disinfection%20and%20Reuse_4-16-2020.pdf



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