

## Guide to Glove Use in Health Care Settings

22 September 2020

### General guidance:

- A risk assessment should be undertaken to determine whether gloves are required. Gloves are not routinely required to be worn, except when adhering to Contact Precautions, if there is no potential for exposure to blood or body fluids, or contaminated environment.
- Gloves are **not** a substitute for hand hygiene.
- Never wash, disinfect, or use hand sanitisers on gloves; they are single use only.
- Single-use gloves are made of different materials (e.g. latex, nitrile rubber, polyvinyl chloride (PVC), polyethylene and neoprene), and have different colours, thickness, sizes, and versions (e.g. long- and normal-cuffed, powdered or powder-free).
- Allergies to Latex Gloves - Natural latex is from the sap of the rubber tree. It can cause allergic reactions in some people.

TYPE OF GLOVE		WHEN TO WEAR
<b>Sterile gloves</b>		
	<b>Sterile Surgical</b>	<b>Aseptic procedures</b> , e.g. medical procedures, surgical operations, central venous catheter insertion
<b>Non-sterile gloves for adhering to Standard and Transmission - Based Precautions</b>		
	<b>Nitrile</b>	Activities with a risk of contamination of healthcare workers' hands when it can be reasonably anticipated that contact with blood, body fluids or other potentially infectious materials, mucous membranes, and non-intact skin will occur - <b>Standard Precautions</b>
	<b>Vinyl</b>	Only wear when providing direct patient care or if it is anticipated that you will have contact with the immediate patient environment (including cleaning) for patients requiring contact isolation - <b>Contact Precautions</b>
	<b>Latex</b>	<b>NOTE: Do NOT use latex gloves if patient or healthcare worker has a latex allergy</b>
<b>Non-sterile gloves for safe handling of food and cleaning</b>		
	<b>Polyethylene (plastic)</b>	When preparing or serving food
	<b>Heavy duty reusable gloves</b>	Environmental and equipment cleaning