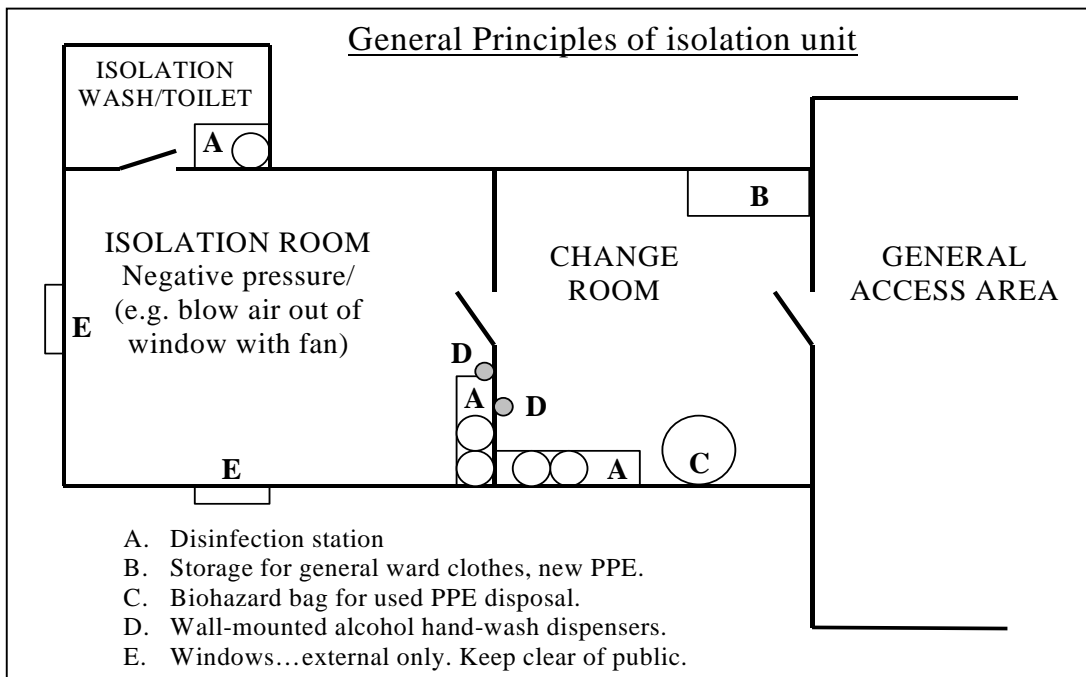


ANNEX 3. Notes on SARS isolation facilities and the use of personal protective equipment in a SARS outbreak.

Principles of a typical SARS isolation facility.



Notes on Specific Items of personal protective equipment (PPE)

Masks (2 types are provided):

- N95 masks are recommended for general use in the isolation room where close contact with the patient and direct contamination with saliva / sputum (cough, sneezing etc) is not likely. Ideally, masks should be splash-proof (e.g. 3M 1860 model) if available.
- The patient should wear an N95 mask at all times when staff / other people are in room.
- HEPA (P100, N100) masks are recommended for use during procedures (e.g. intubation, collection of respiratory or blood specimens) and for laboratory use, where splash of respiratory secretions is likely.

- Disposable masks should be discarded after 4-6 hours use. They should not be stored in bags and re-used, shared, or hung around neck etc. (patient's mask may be reused by patient).
- It is **essential** that the mask makes a complete seal on the face (see manufacturer's fitting instructions) at all times. Care should be taken to ensure seal is complete before approaching patient.
- Masks can not be worn with beards / unshaven faces.
- If a mask is splashed, wet, it should be changed using strict hand-washing and gloves.
- Standard surgical masks can be used **by patients** if N95 masks are not tolerated.
- Standard surgical masks are **not** adequate for staff or visitors.

Goggles / eye-wear:

Goggles should be worn at all times during patient contact. They should be cleaned thoroughly in alcohol-based disinfectant solution prior to re-use. UVEX goggles may be worn with glasses. Safety glasses have been included in the stock, they are not a good substitute for goggles and should only be used if extreme heat and humidity prevents goggles from being tolerated.

How should PPE be used?

Putting on the PPE before entering isolation area.

- Wear scrub suit or old set of thin clothes before entering the designated changing room or area
- Put on shoe covers or boots with trousers tucked inside
- Put on outer laboratory gown or coveralls
- Put on impermeable apron
- Put on gloves with gown sleeve cuff **tucked into glove**.
- Put on the mask and goggles.
- Boots are provided for heavily contaminated / wet flooring and floor cleaning. Like the goggles, they should be cleaned.

Taking off the PPE when leaving the isolation area.

- Wash gloved hands in >60% alcohol handwash solution (Sterillium). Disinfect boots with 1% bleach.

- Using gloved hands, remove aprons, gowns, and shoe covers without contaminating clothing underneath. Touch only outside of clothing. Place in biohazard disposal bag.
- Remove gloves (fingers under cuff of second glove to avoid contact between skin and outside of gloves).
- Wash hands in >60% alcohol hand-cleaning solution.
- Remove goggles and boots and place in separate containers (receptacle) with close fitting lids for soaking and cleaning.
- Remove head cover and mask, place in biohazard disposal bag.
- Wash hands to elbows thoroughly in >60% alcohol hand cleansing solution, followed by soapy water.
- Change into street clothing and wash hands in soapy water before leaving facility.

Further notes on PPE use.

- **Never** wear PPE in general ward area.
- **Plan ahead** when entering the isolation area (or laboratory), so that all necessary equipment is available, and all necessary patient care activities are completed in one visit.

If staff must temporarily leave the isolation area, a complete change of PPE and thorough hand washing (above) **must** be performed each time.