**Standard Operating Guideline:** COVID-19 Responder Decontamination

**Issued:**

**Effective Dates:**

**PURPOSE**: To provide a standardized method of doffing personal protective equipment (PPE) and cleaning and hygiene to prevent cross contamination following treatment and/or transport of a potentially contagious patient.

**SCOPE**: To provide a consistent and interoperable capability among all fire departments in Massachusetts, this Standard Operating Guideline should be followed by all departments.

**GUIDELINES:** The following steps should be taken, in order, upon completion of treatment and/or transport of a patient who is known or suspected of having COVID-19. Doffing and decontamination measures should NOT be taken until the vehicle is cleaned and disinfected, unless responders intend on donning new PPE for this step of the process.

1. Among the most important steps in doffing and decontamination is the donning of PPE. PPE must be donned and layered such that the correct order of doffing can be accomplished without cross contamination. See the companion guide to these SOGs for detailed instruction or follow department training.
2. Select a location that is outside of public or patient treatment areas and protected from wind, etc..
3. Set up equipment, such as plastic bags to receive contaminated materials. Be certain that everything needed is within arm’s reach before starting.
4. Doffing PPE:
   1. Remove outer gloves in a manner as to avoid touching the outside of the outer glove with the inner glove (see companion guide). Throw outer gloves into the decon trash bag.
   2. If wearing full length coveralls without disposable outer boots, remove footwear and put it aside.
   3. Step into decon bag.
   4. Remove gown, being careful not to allow the outside of the gown to reverse and touch your clothing. Place gown in decon bag.
   5. Step out of the decon bag.
   6. Remove goggles/face-shield; Some goggle may not be disposable and may be cleaned and disinfected for reuse. If so, have a separate bag for goggles at the ready. Remove goggle or face-shield by pulling in horizontally away from your face, then upward. Remove completely and place in the appropriate bag. If using reusable goggles decontaminate as equipment.
   7. Respirator: If using a half-face or full-face respirator or APR, separate from trash, using another bag and decontaminate as equipment. If using N-95 or higher respirator, the doffed respirator will be discarded in the decon bag. Remove the respirator using the same upward motion used to remove the goggles. Fully remove the respirator in a single movement. Place the respirator in the appropriate bag.
   8. Remove the inner gloves in the same manner as the outer gloves, being careful not to touch the outside of the gloves (see companion guide) (see also IAFF video, “Donning and Doffing PPE”). Discard gloves in the decon bag.
   9. Close all bags and dispose of as appropriate (trash or equipment decon).
5. Wash all exposed skin with soap and water, even if PPE was worn.
6. Consider uniform change and washing as soon as practical.