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சுவசிரிபாய
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சுகாதார, போசணமற்றும் சுதேசவையத்திய அமைச்சு
Ministry of Health, Nutrition & Indigenous Medicine

All DDGs
All Directors
PDHS and RDHSs


Health Ministry's stand on wearing masks, gloves and disinfection

Annexed herewith are the guidelines on wearing masks, gloves and disinfection.

Annex 1 - Disinfection of inside and outside of public buildings and open public places

Annex 2- Use of gloves in the community/ in public places

Annex 3- Wearing masks in the community


Director General of Health Services

Ministry of Health and Indigenous Medical Services

Annex 2

Use of gloves in the community/ in public places

Although wearing gloves is important to prevent transmission of COVID-19 infection in the health care setting, it is of limited use in the community. Other preventive measures such as keeping a distance (at least 1M) from others, washing hands with soap and water for 20 seconds (or using a hand sanitizer with 70% alcohol), and wearing a face mask when going out are important than wearing gloves in public.

Indications to wear gloves in the community

1. Cleaning staff - when cleaning and disinfecting surfaces/shared equipment or items in a workplace or a public place. Heavy-duty gloves or latex gloves are used.
2. Laundry staff - when handling dirty linen. Heavy-duty gloves or latex gloves are used.
3. Food handlers in hotels, restaurants, eateries, food delivery vehicles - when handling/serving ready to eat food. Gloves prepared from material safe for use in food or food packaging are used. **Use of food tongs would be a better option than gloves.**
4. Personnel working in service counters- when handling cash and credit cards. Latex gloves are used.
5. Personnel working in economic centres – when handling, loading and unloading of goods. Heavy-duty gloves or latex gloves are used.
6. People when caring for a sick person and cleaning the surroundings. Latex gloves are used.

Gloves not recommended

- During shopping or using ATMs.
- Personnel working in filling stations
- People using public transport
- Drivers and conductors of public transport

While using disposable gloves

- People should be trained about doing and undoing gloves.
- Utmost care should be taken not to contaminate gloves in between.

- If contamination is suspected, a new pair of gloves should be done.
- Remove them carefully avoiding contamination of the wearer and the surroundings.
- Discard them into a lidded bin lined with a bag.
- Wash hands with soap and water after removing gloves.

Disadvantages of using gloves

- Gives a false assurance of protection
- The wearer disregards more effective measures which prevent transmission of the virus
- If the wearer does not change the gloves in between use, the items/surfaces touched will get contaminated.