

HIGHLY PATHOGENIC AVIAN INFLUENZA (HPAI):

GUIDELINES ON THE USE OF PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENTS FOR HEALTH CARE WORKERS (HEALTH FACILITY BASED)

1.0 GENERAL INFORMATION

In general, standard precautions must be used on all patients treated in the healthcare facility and this involves work practices that are essential to provide a high level of protection to patients, healthcare workers and visitors. This includes:

- Hand washing and antisepsis (hand hygiene);
- Use of personal protective equipment when handling blood, body substances, excretions and secretions;
- Appropriate handling of patient care equipment and soiled linen;
- Prevention of needle stick/sharp injuries;
- Environmental cleaning and spills-management; and
- Appropriate handling of waste.

2.0 WHICH CATEGORY OF HEALTHCARE WORKERS SHOULD USE PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT?

Anyone who will be involved in the treatment or investigation of the case or involved in environmental management including:

- √ All healthcare workers who provide direct patient care e.g. doctors, nurses, radiographers, paramedics, physiotherapists;
- √ All supporting staff including medical aides and cleaning staff;
- √ All laboratory workers handling specimens from a patient with HPAI;
- √ All sterilizing service workers handling equipment that requires decontamination and has come from a patient with HPAI;
- √ Staff involved in the routine removal of wastes generated by the case.

3.0 PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT USED FOR HPAI

If used correctly, personal protective equipment reduces the risk of infection. This includes:

- √ Single use gloves (non sterile)-should cover the cuffs of the gown,
- √ Single use mask (N95 or equivalent specification)-ensure fitted correctly,
- √ Long sleeved cuffed gown (should fully cover the front torso and arms and should tie in the back) or full body overalls,
- √ Plastic apron if splashing of blood, body fluids, excretions and secretions is anticipated,
- √ Protective eyewear/goggles/visors/face shields-corrective eyeglasses or contact lenses alone are not considered eye protection,
- √ Cap.

For healthcare workers entering the isolation areas, the personal protective equipments should be available on the infection control equipment trolley/table outside the area and must be used prior to entering the isolation area. See Annex 1 on suggested checklist for HPAI trolley/table.

Always use safe work practices when wearing personal protective equipments:

- √ avoid touching the face with contaminated gloves and
- √ avoid unnecessary touching of surfaces and objects with contaminated gloves.

4.0 REMOVING PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

Healthcare workers, in particular those who enter the isolation areas, must be taught on proper procedures on the removal of personal protective equipment in the correct order:

1. Remove gown (place in rubbish bin)
2. Remove gloves (peel from hand and discard into rubbish bin)
3. Use alcohol-based handrub or wash hands
4. Remove cap and face shield (place cap in bin and if reusable face shield in container for decontamination)
5. Remove mask- by grasping elastic behind ears-do not touch the front of the mask
6. Leave the room
7. Once outside the room, use alcohol handrub again or wash hands.

Wash hands using plain soap, antimicrobial agent or waterless antiseptic agent such as an alcohol-based hand gel. Wash hands before contact with a patient, after contact with a patient and before contact with the next patient, after contact with body fluids, and immediately after removing gloves.

5. OTHER REQUIREMENTS AND CONSIDERATIONS

- √ Always practice a high level of hygiene at all times- always wash hands after every procedure, removal of personal protective equipment and after handling equipment.
- √ All healthcare workers should reduce any contact with possible patients to the absolute minimum.
- √ All healthcare workers are advised to be vaccinated with the current WHO recommended influenza vaccine. They are also recommended to take antiviral prophylaxis- Oseltamivir phosphate (Tamiflu).
- √ Take care not to recontaminate yourself after removal of personal protective equipment.
- √ Any items that can be used again such as goggles should be disinfected very well. Disinfect twice to ensure the items are clean.
- √ Check temperatures twice daily. Keep a personal diary of contacts. In the event of developing fever, limit contacts and seek medical advice.

Reference:

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) Staff Protection: Advice for WHO staff undertaking field visits; WHO WPRO Document

Interim Infection Control Guidelines for Health Care facilities for Highly pathogenic avian Influenza HPAI; WHO WPRO Draft Document

**SUGGESTED PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT CHECKLIST FOR
HPAI TROLLEY/TABLE**

All personal protective equipments must be kept on this trolley at all times so that it is always available for staff.

NO	PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT	STOCK PRESENT
1	Face shield/eye protection goggles	
2	Single use gloves √ Small √ Medium √ Large	
3	Reusable gloves (for environmental cleaning)	
4	Theatre caps	
5	N95 mask(or equivalent)	
6	Surgical masks	
7	Single-use long sleeved gowns	
8	Single use plastic aprons	