



Diocese of Middlesbrough Lourdes Pilgrimage

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Policy

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Introduction

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is used to prevent the transfer of micro-organisms to and/or from pilgrims, medical and nursing volunteers and helpers or their uniforms and equipment and to protect volunteers from injury. The Pilgrimage has a responsibility to provide suitable PPE and appropriate training in its use where it is deemed to be any risk to health and safety for the employee or volunteer. The employee or volunteer has a responsibility to use the PPE provided in accordance with any training received. (PPE Regulations, 1992).

Scope

This policy applies to all volunteers of the Pilgrimage in all locations.

Responsibilities

The Pilgrimage Director has an overall responsibility to provide suitable PPE and appropriate training in its use where there is deemed to be any risk to health and safety for the employee or volunteer.

The Clinical Lead has the overall responsibility for ensuring that all volunteers are educated and compliant with the usage of PPE. They have a responsibility to ensure that employees and volunteers are provided with appropriate uniforms to wear during the entire Lourdes Pilgrimage and that there are sufficient supplies of PPE available in all Hotels and Accueil locations in Lourdes.

Uniforms

Uniform, i.e. dresses, tunic and trousers, are considered to be protective clothing and should be worn as such. Any uniform that has been soiled with body fluids should be changed immediately. Additional PPE will be required where there is a potential for contact with bodily fluids. Uniforms will be provided, but each employee or volunteer will need to launder these during their stay in Lourdes to ensure a clean uniform for each day.

Plastic Aprons

Disposable plastic aprons provide an effective and practical barrier against the transfer of micro-organisms to or from clothing. They protect susceptible pilgrims from micro-organisms which may be present on the wearers clothing and also serve to protect the wearer from contamination from blood/bodily fluids.

Plastic aprons should be worn where there is likely contact with the pilgrim or pilgrim's environment e.g. making beds, changing dressings, helping with personal care, emptying catheter bags etc.

Plastic aprons **MUST** be changed between each pilgrim when undertaking any care that is likely to involve direct contact.

They must also be changed between each pilgrim when undertaking aseptic procedures.

Plastic aprons are single use items for each procedure or episode of care and should be discarded into a yellow clinical waste bag after use.

Gloves

Gloves help to prevent cross contamination by the hands BUT should not be considered a substitute for hand cleansing. They must conform to BS EN 455/CE marked, be powder free and either sterile or non-sterile. Sterile gloves protect the pilgrim and are only required for aseptic procedures such as dressings and catheterisations. Non-sterile gloves protect the healthcare worker from gross contamination and should be worn when in contact with blood and bodily fluids or when instructed.

Goggles/Glasses/Visors

Face and eye protection should be worn when there is a potential for contamination from blood, bodily fluids, chemicals or liquid medications through splashing.

Masks

FFP3 masks or Standard Surgical masks need not be worn routinely. They are used to prevent the splashing of blood onto the wearers face and also to reduce the transfer of organisms present in the respiratory tract of the wearer to susceptible pilgrims e.g. someone who is immuno-suppressed.

Hair

Hair should be kept clean and tidy. For nurses and health care volunteers, longer hair should be worn neatly off the collar in a style that does not require frequent adjustment.

Training and Awareness

Training will be undertaken at the Formation Day and on the Lourdes pilgrimage when necessary. This Policy will form part of the MIDDLESBROUGH PILGRIMAGE Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) Policy. All those employees and volunteers who have been trained, have a responsibility to use PPE when appropriate to do so, and to ensure that others do too.

Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed annually. Earlier review may be needed in response to exceptional circumstances or relevant changes in legislation or guidance.

References

- Personal Protective Equipment at Work Regulations 1992.
- PRATT R.J. et al (2001) The Epic Project: developing national evidence-based guidelines for preventing healthcare associated infection. DH. 2001. London. HMSO