PPE What is It and Why Do I Have To Wear It???
What purpose does it serve?

1. A major purpose of Personal Protective Equipment is to protect the Bio-Security of the facility
2. A second major purpose of PPE is to protect the animals
3. And a third important reason for wearing PPE is, of course, to protect the wearer
Contaminants come in many forms.

They can be brought in from outside sources and can jeopardize the bio-security of an animal facility.
What Does This Mean

- Protecting the Bio-Security of the facility starts with good husbandry practices and following room entry order.
- Not taking short cuts when it comes to changing PPE including gloves and shoe covers from room to room.
- Paying attention to signs and following Standard Operating Procedures.
- Using good micro-isolator technique.

How Does It Happen?

- Entering a non-barrier room BEFORE you enter an immune-compromised or barrier room.
- Entering an ABSL-2 room before going into a regular housing room.
- Not changing PPE or scrubs after going into a room that has been quarantined or has a suspected pathogen (pinworms, fur mites, MHV) and then entering a barrier or non-quarantine room.
Personal protective clothing, by it’s nature, assists in protecting the animal population as well as the staff. The majority of personal protective clothing is, or can be, disposable. When standard operating procedures are followed, and individuals exercise reasonable caution by maintaining good work habits, especially hand washing, the vast majority of transmissible health problems are kept to a minimum. There is NO substitute for responsible performance and adherence to personal protective apparel.
In addition to the disposable gowns, lab coats, head covers, and other apparel, there are a number of other items that are routinely used in an animal facility. If you will be wearing an N95 respirator, remember that you must be enrolled in the EHS respiratory protection program. Information is available on the Environmental Health and Safety website. http://ehs.uky.edu/classes/ Always be sure that you receive the proper training prior to using any specialized personal protective equipment.
What’s Required In Protective Clothing For Animal Rooms

Protective clothing for working in animal rooms *MIGHT* consist of the any or ALL of the following:
- Surgical Mask (protects the animals not the people) or N95 respirator (protects the people)
- Head Cover
- Shoe Covers
- Gloves
- Tyvek Sleeves
- Disposable Gown and/or dedicated scrubs

A lot depends on where and what you are working with.
Personal Protective Clothing

- Masks & N95
- Head Cover
- Tyvek Sleeve
- Shoe Covers
- Disposable Gown
- Gloves
Disposable face shields must be worn when working in conditions where liquid splashes to the face are possible. You must also wear safety or prescription glasses or chemical goggles in addition to the face shield.
Hearing Protection

- Why is hearing protection necessary?
  - When workplace hazards threaten hearing (loud or continuous noises – pigs, dogs, cage wash noise)

- How will earplugs or earmuffs protect me?
  - They will muffle the sound of the noises to keep them within a decibel range that is safe for ears.

- What is a safe decibel level?
  - Hearing protection is required if levels are over 85dBA
Depending on the area you will be working with, there are some basic rules to follow when putting on personnel protective equipment. And while there may be circumstances where you would want to put gloves on first, the general rule of thumb is to start at the top and work your way down.
First on is the head cover, (be sure all of your hair is tucked into your bonnet)

Followed by the disposable gown
Next comes your mask and/or face shield

While surgeons masks may look “cool” they do not offer much allergen protection for the wearer. They do protect the animals from us, though.

The more efficient mask to wear is the N95. It may not look as “cool”, but it will help keep allergens at bay. If you are using an N95, you MUST be enrolled in the respiratory protection program and befit tested by Environmental Health and Services.
After you have put on your disposable gown, and then your mask, the Tyvek sleeves, (if you are wearing them) come next

Followed by your gloves. Be sure that you have pulled the cuffs of your gloves up over the edges of your sleeves
Then last, but not least, put on your shoe covers. You may want to spray the bottoms of the shoe covers before you put them on with a disinfecting solution such as MB 10. If you are wearing double shoe covers, spray the soles of both pair.
Worn to protect the bottoms of your shoes from debris when working with pigs and dogs.

Also wear when working in the rodent quarantine area(s)

**REMEMBER to REMOVE THEM whenever you leave the room!**
Personal Protective Equipment for Entry Into a Rodent Barrier

*If you have facial hair, a PAPR should replace the N95. N95 masks require a close fit and will not provide adequate respiratory protection if you have facial hair.

- Bouffant cap
- Disposable gown securely tied at the neck, closed in back, tied in the front or side, not hanging open or off the shoulder.
- Latex or Nitrile Gloves
- Close-toed Shoes or boots and shoe covers

Hood Style

- N95 mask (surgical mask may be worn if you are not enrolled in EHS respiratory protection program)
- Tyvek Protective sleeves

Helmet Style
Exiting The Room

- In general, just as there is an order for dressing to go into a room, there is an order to remove the PPE when exiting.
- There are two ways to leave an animal room as far as PPE is concerned.
- Many rooms require that all PPE is changed between them. This would be the case with a quarantine or barrier room.
- Some rooms require only shoe covers and gloves be changed.
- Always check the entry requirements or find out from a supervisor or DLAR Veterinarian.
When exiting from a standard housing room, always remove your gown by turning it inside out to reduce the possibility of contamination. If you have sleeves on they can and do in most cases come off with the gown. Do not take your gloves off yet.
Next comes the shoe covers, again turning them inside out to help control contamination
NOW come the gloves, again inside out,

Followed by the mask, and then

The head cover.
In a Quarantine or Barrier Room

- The order is slightly different.
- Again, the gown comes off first. But then
- THE GLOVES COME OFF, turned inside out of course, and discarded. This is where double gloving can be indicated since the next thing that you will remove will be your face mask and head cover
- Then you will deal with your shoe covers
If you are wearing double shoe covers, remove the first pair inside the room at the threshold of the door. Then as you exit, remove the shoe cover from one foot, step over the threshold into the hall and discard the shoe cover into the room trash receptacle.

Note: Foot with shoe cover on is INSIDE the room.
After you have stepped over the threshold and into the hallway, remove the other shoe cover and discard it into the room trash. Be sure that the trash can is accessible from your position at the door so you do not have to step into or reenter the room to throw it away.
Wearing PPE is REQUIRED, it is NOT an OPTION

- The requirements for personal protective equipment may change over time, or if the health status of the animal housing area changes. Instructions will be posted on the housing room if this happens. Please be aware that entry orders may be in effect as well.
- You should always check with the supervisor in your animal housing area if there is ANY doubt in your mind as to what you should wear. Please be aware that entry orders may be in effect as well.
- While some items will be required, if you feel you need additional PPE, you are free to add additional items or layers of protection.
Questions?

If you have any questions about what Personal Protective Equipment you need to wear in any area of DLAR, or when you need to wear it, contact the supervisor of that area, any of the DLAR Veterinarians, or our Facility Operations Manager.