

How to Perform Patient Decontamination: A Picture Guide

RECOMMENDED INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE:

Print double-sided pages and laminate. Then hole punch along the left edge and add key rings.

NOTE - odd pages with images are meant to be patient-facing, even pages with text are instructions for staff.



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Introduction





RECOMMENDATIONS

Introduce yourself to the patients. Point to the picture of the decon person without the head piece, then point to yourself. The goal is to show the patients, particularly children, that the decon suits and the people in them aren't scary.

When possible, caregivers should be kept with their children and be the primary helper of the child. They should help the child undress and wash off in the showers under the supervision of the decon team.

Remember that in emergency situations, people might be anxious, frustrated, or scared, including the decon team. Try to be patient with the patients and yourself.

SAY

"Hi, my name is (your name). I'll help you go through the showers. What's your name?"

"You will need to take a special shower today to help your body be extra clean. We're going to use the buddy system, so you will have someone there to help you take the shower today. If your family is nearby, they may be able to help you."

"I'm wearing a special suit. It looks a little like a space suit, doesn't it?"

"I know there's a lot of people, but they're here to help."

"Our special showers are kind of noisy, so that might be different from home."

"When you're done here, you'll get checked out by the doctors."

1 Undress

Desvestirse

سبالملا علخا

脱掉衣服

옷을 벗으세요

ԸԱՆԵՔ ՇՈՐԵՐԸ





RECOMMENDATIONS

As much as 80% of contaminants can be removed by simply removing the patient's clothing. Mobility devices can go through the shower (canes, glasses, wheelchairs, and service dogs), but not hearing aids, phones, jewelry or other personal items. Underwear may or may not be removed, at the decon team's discretion. These are placed in plastic bags labelled with patient's name and/or photo.

Older children can remove their own clothes, but younger children may need help. Clothes may be cut off very young or non-ambulatory patients. Modesty should be considered and preserved if possible (modesty gown, screens).

Pair child with a healthcare worker of the same gender. Remind the child to put their phone, watch, and jewelry in the bag.

SAY

"Okay (child's name), before you get in the shower, you have to take your clothes off. Do you need help, or can you do it by yourself?"

"When you're ready, you can put your clothes and other things in this bag, and I'll put your name on it, so they know it's yours. We'll give you some hospital clothes to wear after the shower."

"Some kids don't want to do this, and some might have to do it again, but it will be over quickly, and you'll have help to do it. We'll make it go as fast as possible."

2 Enter shower

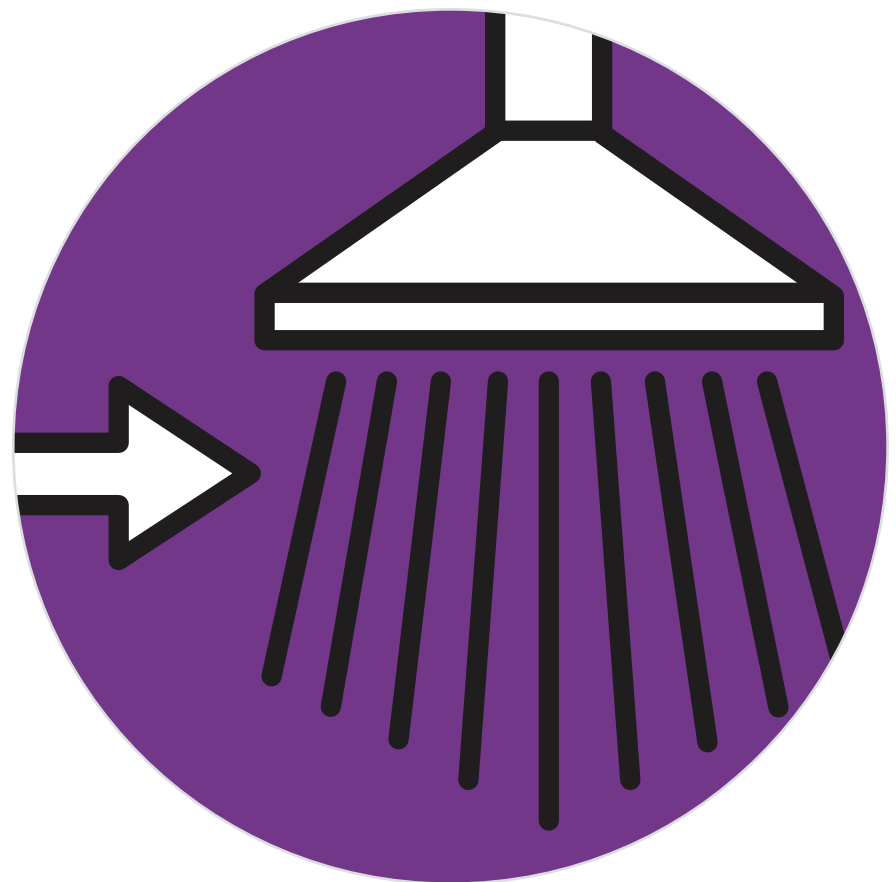
Entrar en la ducha

مامحلا لخددا

进入淋浴间

샤워실에 들어가세요

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RECOMMENDATIONS

Children proceed into the showers. Total shower length should be no more than 90 seconds when possible. Show children the soap and other tools they/decon team will use. Let them touch and interact with the tools as time allows, especially the younger children. Let them touch the shower water before getting in.

Infant Considerations: Wet babies are slippery! Avoid holding babies during decontamination as they may slip out of your grip (rubber gloves). Use an infant bathtub or stretcher with drainage holes.

If caregiver is available, involve caregiver in the process. NOTE: Infant should be secured in someone's arms or in a basket or stretcher while caregiver disrobes, as they will be unable to undress and hold infant at the same time.

SAY

"Here's the soap you will use."

"You might use a soft sponge or a soft brush. Here is the sponge/brush you will use."

"The water isn't cold, you can touch it."

3 Wash hair

Lavarse el cabello

رعش لاسغا

洗头

머리를 감으세요

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RECOMMENDATIONS

Child washes their hair. Make sure that hair is washed thoroughly, as contaminants can be trapped here.

Throughout the process, be intentional about encouraging and praising the child.

Older children, though more mature, still need help with decon, especially reminders to clean thoroughly and not rush through the steps.

SAY

“You’re going to start at the top of your head and wash all the way down to your toes, okay?”

“Scrub your hair really well, and make sure the soap gets everywhere.”

4 Wash face

Lavarse la cara

هجو لا لسغا

洗脸

얼굴을 씻으세요

네나스타프 가투프드





RECOMMENDATIONS

Child washes their face. Make sure the patient is gentle and does not rub more contaminant in their eyes.

Remove contact lenses with clean, decontaminated hands.

SAY

*“Do you have contact lenses?”
(If they do) “Can you take them out yourself? Make sure your hands are clean.”*

“If you need help with cleaning around any tubes, the team can help you with that.”

“Make sure not to get the soap in your eyes, okay?”

“Don’t forget your ears,” etc.

5 | Wash neck & arms

Lavarse el cuello
y los brazos

ني عارذلاو ةبقرلا لسغا

清洗颈部和手臂

목과 팔을 씻으세요

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RECOMMENDATIONS

Child washes their neck, arms, and hands.
Make sure the patient washes folds in the skin thoroughly (i.e., armpits, elbows).

SAY

"Now you can start washing your neck."

"Now wash your shoulders and arms."

"Don't forget your armpits."

6 Wash body

Lavarse el cuerpo

مسجلا لسغا

清洗身体

몸을 씻으세요

ԼԱՆՏԻՔ ՄԱՐՄԻՆԸ





RECOMMENDATIONS

Child washes their torso.

SAY

*"Now wash your chest
and then your stomach,
from the top down."*

*"Do you need help
washing your back?"*

7 | Wash legs & feet

Lavarse las piernas
y los pies

نيمدقل او ني قاسلا لسغا

清洗腿部和脚部

다리와 발을 씻으세요

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RECOMMENDATIONS

Child washes their legs and feet. Make sure the patients wash folds in skin thoroughly (i.e., groin).

SAY

"Keep washing from the top down, don't forget your bottom."

"Now wash your legs and your private parts."

"Don't forget your feet!"

"You're almost done!"

8 Rinse

Enjuagar

فطشاً

冲洗

물로 씻어 내세요

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RECOMMENDATIONS

Child rinses thoroughly. Contaminant should be diluted as much as possible.

Check that all the contaminant has been washed off before the child exits the showers.

SAY

“Last step: make sure you rinse all the soap off.”

If using a Geiger counter to test for radiation, say, “This machine will check for contaminants, it makes a clicking noise but it won’t touch you, okay?”

9 | Done!

iListo!

امت!

洗完啦!

완료!

나타오!





RECOMMENDATIONS

Child is finished with decon and receives a blanket or gown to cover themselves. Pediatric patients are particularly vulnerable to hypothermia. They should be wet and exposed for as little time as possible. Distance between decon location and triage/hospital entrance should be as short as possible.

Dry off with a towel and provide gowns or blankets to cover themselves with.

Point to where the child should go and to the person who will continue their care. Introduce them to the child by name when possible.

SAY

"All done! Here is a blanket/towel for you to dry off with. I can help you if you need it. When you're ready, let's go that way with (name) so the doctors can check you out."

"Good job! You did great!"