

**ACTION CARD:**  
**UNIFORM AND WORKWEAR- INPATIENT AND COMMUNITY**  
**COVID-19 v15**  
**12.01.22**

**Management of Uniforms and Workwear (including headwear)**

**All clinical staff should be provided with a uniform in line with the uniform policy and conducive to their clinical role.**

**Each Directorate will be responsible for ordering uniforms and providing these to all clinical staff to wear as soon as it is available.**

Please note, lanyards are classed as part of uniform for clinical staff and should be free from pins / ribbons to comply with IPC and should be laundered as uniforms.

The appropriate use of personal protective equipment (PPE) will protect staff uniform from contamination in most circumstances.

Limiting transmission of COVID-19 in the healthcare setting requires a range of infection prevention and control measures which can be considered as a hierarchy of controls. Although wearing a uniform does not prevent transmission of the virus, when worn in conjunction with the correct Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and adhering to the infection control policy & uniform and workwear management guidance, wearing a uniform can prevent contamination of skin and clothing. Current evidence supports that use of appropriate PPE is highly effective at preventing transmission of the virus.

Shoe covers and head coverings are not recommended PPE as transmission is via respiratory droplets and direct contacts between infectious secretions and mucous membranes (mouth / nose / eyes).

**It is essential that uniforms are covered outside of work duties due to the perceptions of the public regarding hygiene and professionalism, e.g. all health workers should cover their uniform when stopping for fuel, snacks and to take breaks outside of their base.**

Infection Prevention Control best practice with regard to workwear & uniform

ALL clinical staff must follow the usual infection prevention control procedures to include the points below in regards to workwear and uniforms:

- Adhere to the uniform policy
- Be Bare Below the Elbows
- Remove all Jewellery
- Ensure finger nails are clean, short and that artificial nails or nail products are not

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| <p>worn</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cover all cuts or abrasions with a waterproof dressing.</li> <li>• Follow hand hygiene requirements</li> <li>• All symptomatic or positive COVID-19 community patients should be visited at the end of the shift (where possible).</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <p><b><u>Uniforms – In-Patient areas</u></b></p> <p><b>In-patient</b> areas staff must change into and out of uniforms at work and not wear them when travelling to and from work.<br/>All in-patient staff should have a spare uniform / change of clothing available for each shift.<br/>Each in-patient site should have an identified changing area.</p> <p><b>Shoes</b><br/>All in-patient staff should have a second pair of shoes to change into and out of for the duration of the shift. As such shoes need to be compliant with the trust uniform policy. Inpatient staff should leave their work shoes in a dedicated area, in their workplace.</p> <p><b>Headwear</b><br/>All staff to wear bands that can be laundered at 60°C as below and are not to wear the knitted bands</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <p><b><u>Uniform - Community</u></b></p> <p><b>Community health workers</b> who are required to travel between patients are permitted to wear the same uniform for the duration of their shift.<br/>Where possible the uniform should be covered during travel.</p> <p>It is essential that uniforms are covered outside of work duties due to the perceptions of the public regarding hygiene and professionalism, e.g. community health workers should cover their uniform when stopping for fuel, snacks and to take breaks outside of their base.<br/>Staff should have a spare uniform available for each shift, in case of contamination.<br/>Staff should have non uniform ready to change into, if they are planning to go to somewhere not related to work after their shift is completed.</p> <p><b>Shoes</b><br/>Community Staff should have a pair of shoes suitable for work in line with the uniform policy. There is no need for staff to clean or change shoes between visits unless they become contaminated with patient bodily fluids; if this occurs staff should wipe the shoes with a wipe and dispose of the wipe as per their PPE wear.</p> <p><b>Cars</b><br/>There should be no need for staff to clean car seats as the back of staff uniforms are a</p> |

minimal risk of contamination; however if the back of a uniform becomes contaminated and staff cannot change uniform before driving, they should cover the car seat with a plastic bag and dispose of this as per their PPE wear when able to change. **H**

### Headwear

All staff to wear bands that can be laundered at 60°C as below and are not to wear the knitted bands

**Staff who do not normally wear a uniform but work in a clinical area** for the whole of their working day and come into contact with patients i.e. Doctors / Advance Nurse Practitioners (ANPs) should consider the use of theatre scrubs (unless otherwise directed). These should be laundered every day and practice identified for the laundering of uniforms be followed as below.

Staff that do not currently have an identified uniform should direct any queries to their line manager.

### **Laundering of Uniforms, work wear for both Community and Inpatient Staff as per best practice guidance:**

LPT does not have a staff uniform laundry service therefore staff uniforms should be transported home in a disposable plastic bag and emptied directly into an empty washing machine; without touching the inside of the bag it and the bag should be disposed of into the household waste stream. Where staff wear their own clothes for work, laundering of workwear should be managed in the same way as a uniform.

- Clean uniform/ workwear / headwear must be worn every day.
- Inpatient staff should leave their work shoes in a dedicated area, in their workplace.
- Where staff undertakes laundering of their own uniforms, the uniform / headwear/ lanyard / workwear should be transported home in a disposable plastic bag.
- Seal and the door of the washing machine should be wiped before closing

Uniform, head wear and lanyards should be laundered:

- Separately from other household linen;
- In a load not more than half the machine capacity
- At the maximum temperature the fabric can tolerate. A wash for 10 minutes at removes almost all micro-organisms. Washing with detergent at lower temperatures – down to 30°C – eliminates MRSA and most other micro-organisms, including coronaviruses.
- Uniforms should then be tumbled dried/ ironed.

**Staff who have been provided with scrubs should launder them every day following the guidance for the laundering of uniforms.**

**Guidance for PPE when carrying out clinical duties can be found in the Action Cards on the Staffnet.**



**Leicestershire Partnership**  
NHS Trust