

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

This domain performs a comprehensive assessment of PPE adherence and functionality at the facility as it currently functions.

Policy & Procedure

1a - Does the facility have policies and standard operating procedures related to Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

1b - What is included in PPE policies and standard operating procedures?

- Selection of PPE based on nature of patient interaction and route of transmission
- Gown use
- Glove use
- Hand hygiene
- Mask use
- Respirator use
- Eye protection
- None
- Other

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Supply Program

2a - Does the facility have protocols in place to manage PPE supply?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

2b - The PPE supply management protocol(s) include:

- Sufficient stock
- Sufficient budget to maintain stock
- Deployment to point of use
- Maintenance program to not exceed expiration and beyond use dates
- Sufficient storage, including meeting temperature and humidity requirements
- Other

3 - Is the IPC program involved in the process to evaluate alternative PPE options in the event of a supply chain disruption?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

Respiratory Protection Program

4 - Does the facility have a written respiratory protection program?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

5 - What respiratory protection is available at your facility?

- N95 respirator
- PAPR/ CAPR
- Elastomeric Respirator
- None
- Other

6a - Is fit testing of respirators provided to ALL personnel who may encounter a patient with an airborne pathogen?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure
- Not applicable: PAPR/CAPR only program

6b - What type of fit testing is performed at your facility?

- Qualitative
- Quantitative
- Neither

6c - What frequency is fit testing provided to healthcare personnel?

- Annually
- As needed (e.g., weight gain/loss, change in role, change in PPE availability)
- Other

6d - Does the facility have a protocol in place for healthcare personnel who fail their fit testing or who are unable to be fit tested?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

6e - What is included in the protocol for employees who fail respirator fit testing?

- Employee is provided with a PAPR, CAPR, or elastomeric respirator
- Alternative patient assignments
- No protocol in place
- Other

6f - Do healthcare personnel receive education and training about seal checks with N95 respirators?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

6g - Do healthcare personnel receive education and training about compromises in respirator fit with a change in physical condition, such as weight gain/loss and pregnancy?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

Education & Training

7a - Do healthcare personnel receive job-specific, competency-based training on PPE?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

7b - Who receives PPE competency-based education & training?

- Clinical Healthcare Personnel
- Ancillary Services
- Non-clinical healthcare personnel
- Clinical Support
- Students & Trainees
- Volunteers
- Contractors
- None
- Other

7c - PPE competency-based training includes:

- PPE selection based on nature of interaction and route of transmission
- PPE donning and doffing sequence
- Gown donning and doffing
- Glove donning and doffing
- Face mask donning and doffing
- Respirator donning and doffing
- Respirator seal checks
- PAPR/CAPR donning and doffing
- In-room activity while in PPE
- Conditions that compromise respirator fit
- Reusable respiratory protection cleaning and disinfection
- Other

7d - What frequency is PPE education and training provided?

- Upon hire
- Annually
- When new equipment and protocols are introduced
- As remediation for compliance failure
- Targeted improvement efforts
- None

7e - Are personnel required to demonstrate competency upon completion of training?

- Yes
- No

Unsure

7f - Does the facility maintain documentation for PPE training and education?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

Audit & Feedback

8a - Does the facility audit PPE adherence?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

8b - How are PPE audits performed?

- Secret shopper
- Overt observation
- Indirect measurement of PPE burn
- Video monitoring later reviewed by trained auditors
- Patient observers
- Other

8c - Does the IPC program have a target number of observations as a PPE goal?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

8d - Does the facility provide feedback from the audits to healthcare personnel?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

8e - Do auditor(s) provide immediate real-time feedback to healthcare personnel in the moment?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

8f - Does the facility utilize PPE data to impact performance improvement?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

Environment of Care

9 - What PPE is available at the point of use for healthcare personnel?

- Hand hygiene supplies
- Gloves
- Gowns

- Eye Protection
- Face Masks
- Respirators (when indicated by clinical situation), e.g., N95, PAPR, CAPR, etc.
- None of the above

10 - Does the facility have posted signage and visual reminders for PPE donning steps?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

11 - Does the facility have posted signage and visual reminders for PPE doffing steps?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

General Practice

12 - Do healthcare personnel doff PPE prior to exiting the patient care area?

- Always
- Often
- Rarely
- Never

13 - Do healthcare personnel wear gloves in appropriate scenarios, such as reasonable anticipation of contact with blood or body fluids, and in transmission-based precautions?

- Always
- Often
- Rarely
- Never

14 - Are gloves removed using proper technique to prevent hand contamination? (e.g., glove-in-glove technique or beak method)

- Always
- Often
- Rarely
- Never

15 - Do healthcare personnel perform hand hygiene immediately following glove removal?

- Always
- Often
- Rarely
- Never

16 - Are gowns worn to prevent contamination of skin and clothing during procedures/activities where contact with potentially infectious materials could occur?

- Always
- Often
- Rarely

Never

17 - Are gowns ever reused, even for repeated contacts on the same patient?

- Always
- Often
- Rarely
- Never

18 - Is eye protection (face shields or goggles) readily available near point of use throughout the facility?

- Always
- Often
- Rarely
- Never

19 - Is eye protection and a facemask worn during procedures and patient care activities likely to generate splashes, sprays, or aerosols?

- Always
- Often
- Rarely
- Never

Answer Key

Policy & Procedure

1a - Does the facility have policies and standard operating procedures related to Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)?

Yes - Preferred

No

Unsure

1b - What is included in PPE policies and standard operating procedures? (**Select all preferred options**)

Selection of PPE based on nature of patient interaction and route of transmission - **Preferred**

Gown use - **Preferred**

Glove use - **Preferred**

Hand hygiene - **Preferred**

Mask use - **Preferred**

Respirator use - **Preferred**

Eye protection - **Preferred**

None

Other

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Supply Program

2a - Does the facility have protocols in place to manage PPE supply?

Yes - Preferred

No

Unsure

2b - The PPE supply management protocol(s) include: (**Select all preferred options**)

Sufficient stock - **Preferred**

Sufficient budget to maintain stock - **Preferred**

Deployment to point of use - **Preferred**

Maintenance program to not exceed expiration and beyond use dates - **Preferred**

Sufficient storage, including meeting temperature and humidity requirements - **Preferred**

Other

3 - Is the IPC program involved in the process to evaluate alternative PPE options in the event of a supply chain disruption?

Yes - Preferred

No

Unsure

Respiratory Protection Program

4 - Does the facility have a written respiratory protection program?

Yes - Preferred

No

Unsure

5 - What respiratory protection is available at your facility? **(Not scored – Informational Only)**

- N95 respirator
- PAPR/ CAPR
- Elastomeric Respirator
- None
- Other

6a - Is fit testing of respirators provided to ALL personnel who may encounter a patient with an airborne pathogen?

- Yes - Preferred**
- No
- Unsure
- Not applicable: PAPR/CAPR only program

6b - What type of fit testing is performed at your facility? **(Select all preferred options)**

- Qualitative - **Preferred**
- Quantitative - **Preferred**
- Neither

6c - What frequency is fit testing provided to healthcare personnel? **(Select all preferred options)**

- Annually - **Preferred**
- As needed (e.g., weight gain/loss, change in role, change in PPE availability) - **Preferred**
- Other

6d - Does the facility have a protocol in place for healthcare personnel who fail their fit testing or who are unable to be fit tested?

- Yes - Preferred**
- No
- Unsure

6e - What is included in the protocol for employees who fail respirator fit testing? **(Select all preferred options)**

- Employee is provided with a PAPR, CAPR, or elastomeric respirator - **Preferred**
- Alternative patient assignments - **Preferred Optional**
- No protocol in place
- Other

6f - Do healthcare personnel receive education and training about seal checks with N95 respirators?

- Yes - Preferred**
- No
- Unsure

6g - Do healthcare personnel receive education and training about compromises in respirator fit with a change in physical condition, such as weight gain/loss and pregnancy?

- Yes - Preferred**
- No
- Unsure

Education & Training

7a - Do healthcare personnel receive job-specific, competency-based training on PPE?

Yes - Preferred

No

Unsure

7b - Who receives PPE competency-based education & training? (**Select all preferred options**)

Clinical Healthcare Personnel - **Preferred**

Ancillary Services - **Preferred**

Non-clinical healthcare personnel - **Preferred Optional**

Clinical Support - **Preferred**

Students & Trainees - **Preferred**

Volunteers - **Preferred**

Contractors - **Preferred**

None

Other

7c - PPE competency-based training includes: (**Select all preferred options**)

PPE selection based on nature of interaction and route of transmission - **Preferred**

PPE donning and doffing sequence - **Preferred**

Gown donning and doffing - **Preferred**

Glove donning and doffing - **Preferred**

Face mask donning and doffing - **Preferred**

Respirator donning and doffing - **Preferred**

Respirator seal checks - **Preferred**

PAPR/CAPR donning and doffing - **Preferred Optional**

In-room activity while in PPE - **Preferred**

Conditions that compromise respirator fit - **Preferred**

Reusable respiratory protection cleaning and disinfection - **Preferred Optional**

Other

7d - What frequency is PPE education and training provided? (**Select all preferred options**)

Upon hire - **Preferred**

Annually - **Preferred**

When new equipment and protocols are introduced - **Preferred**

As remediation for compliance failure - **Preferred**

Targeted improvement efforts - **Preferred**

None

7e - Are personnel required to demonstrate competency upon completion of training?

Yes - Preferred

No

Unsure

7f - Does the facility maintain documentation for PPE training and education?

Yes - Preferred

No

Unsure

Audit & Feedback

8a - Does the facility audit PPE adherence?

Yes - Preferred

No

Unsure

8b - How are PPE audits performed? **(Select all preferred options)**

Secret shopper - **Preferred Optional**

Overt observation - **Preferred**

Indirect measurement of PPE burn - **Preferred Optional**

Video monitoring later reviewed by trained auditors - **Preferred Optional**

Patient observers - **Preferred Optional**

Other

8c - Does the IPC program have a target number of observations as a PPE goal?

Yes - Preferred

No

Unsure

8d - Does the facility provide feedback from the audits to healthcare personnel?

Yes - Preferred

No

Unsure

8e - Do auditor(s) provide immediate real-time feedback to healthcare personnel in the moment?

Yes - Preferred

No

Unsure

8f - Does the facility utilize PPE data to impact performance improvement?

Yes - Preferred

No

Unsure

Environment of Care

9 - What PPE is available at the point of use for healthcare personnel? **(Select all preferred options)**

Hand hygiene supplies - **Preferred**

Gloves - **Preferred**

Gowns - **Preferred**

Eye Protection - **Preferred**

Face Masks - **Preferred**

Respirators (when indicated by clinical situation), e.g., N95, PAPR, CAPR, etc. - **Preferred Optional**

None of the above

10 - Does the facility have posted signage and visual reminders for PPE donning steps?

Yes - Preferred

- No
- Unsure

11 - Does the facility have posted signage and visual reminders for PPE doffing steps?

Yes - Preferred

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General Practice

12 - Do healthcare personnel doff PPE prior to exiting the patient care area?

Always - Preferred

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Often - **Preferred**

Rarely

Never

19 - Is eye protection and a facemask worn during procedures and patient care activities likely to generate splashes, sprays, or aerosols?

Always - **Preferred**

Often - **Preferred**

Rarely

Never

Guidance

Policy & Procedure

Core Element Description: Assessment of policies and procedures related to PPE use and practice at the facility.

No Guidance Available - *Intentionally left blank*

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Supply Program

Core Element Description: Assessment of PPE supply management at the facility.

No Guidance Available - *Intentionally left blank*

Respiratory Protection Program

Core Element Description: Assessment of the Respiratory Protection Program at the facility.

Free Access: Regulatory

Occupational Safety and Health Administration. (2011) Occupational Safety and Health Standards. Respiratory Protection. <https://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/regulations/standardnumber/1910/1910.134>

Education & Training

Core Element Description: Assessment of the education and training of healthcare personnel to appropriately utilize PPE in standard and transmission-based precautions as it pertains to their job role.

No Guidance Available - *Intentionally left blank*

Audit & Feedback

Core Element Description: Assessment of audit and feedback practices regarding PPE adherence.

Free Access: Guidelines

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2002) Guideline for Hand Hygiene in Health-Care Settings: Recommendations of the Healthcare Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee and the HICPAC/SHEA/APIC/IDSA Hand Hygiene Task Force. MMWR 2002;51. <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/PDF/rr/rr5116.pdf>

Free Access: Resources

Washer, L., Gilmartin, H.M., Olmstead, R. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (n.d.) Hand Hygiene: Education, Monitoring, and Feedback. <https://www.cdc.gov/infection-control/media/pdfs/Strive-HH102-508.pdf>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (n.d.) Auditing and feedback of PPE use. [PowerPoint slides]. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. https://www.cdc.gov/infection-control/media/pdfs/strive-ppe104-508.pdf?CDC_AAref_Val=https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/pdf/strive/PPE104-508.pdf

Environment of Care

Core Element Description: Assessment of the environment of care to support staff adherence to PPE practice throughout the facility.

No Guidance Available - *Intentionally left blank*

General Practice

Core Element Description: Assessment of general PPE practice and adherence at the facility.

Free Access: Guidelines

Siegel JD, Rhinehart E, Jackson M, Chiarello L, and the Healthcare Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee. 2007 Guideline for Isolation Precautions. Preventing Transmission of Infectious Agents in Healthcare Settings. <https://www.cdc.gov/infection-control/media/pdfs/Guideline-Isolation-H.pdf>

Additional Guidance

Free Access: Regulatory

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). (2024, December 23.) NIOSH regulations. https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/about/regulations-and-regulatory-agenda.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fniosh%2Fregulations.html

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. (2020). State Operations Manual Appendix A - Survey Protocol, Regulations and Interpretive Guidelines for Hospitals. https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Manuals/Downloads/som107ap_a_hospitals.pdf

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. (n.d.) Hospital infection control worksheet <https://www.cms.gov/medicare/provider-enrollment-and-certification/surveycertificationgeninfo/downloads/survey-and-cert-letter-15-12-attachment-1.pdf>

Federal Register. (2016). Banned devices; powdered surgeon's gloves, powdered patient examination gloves, and absorbable powder for lubricating a surgeon's glove.

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2016/12/19/2016-30382/banned-devices-powdered-surgeons-gloves-powdered-patient-examination-gloves-and-absorbable-powder>

Occupational Safety and Health Administration. (1998). Respiratory cleaning procedures (mandatory). <https://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/regulations/standardnumber/1910/1910.134AppB2>

Occupational Safety and Health Administration. (2001). OSHA Instruction: Enforcement Procedures for Occupational Exposure to Bloodborne Pathogens. https://www.osha.gov/sites/default/files/enforcement/directives/CPL_02-02-069.pdf

Occupational Safety and Health Administration. (2004) Occupational Safety and Health Standards. Fit Testing Procedures <https://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/regulations/standardnumber/1910/1910.134AppA>

Occupational Safety and Health Administration. (2007). Standard interpretations. <https://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/standardinterpretations/2007-06-22>

Occupational Safety and Health Administration. (2009). Assigned protection factors for the revised respiratory protection standard.

<https://www.osha.gov/sites/default/files/publications/3352-APF-respirators.pdf>

Occupational Safety and Health Administration. (2011) Occupational Safety and Health Standards. Respiratory Protection. <https://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/regulations/standardnumber/1910/1910.134>

Occupational Safety and Health Administration. (2012). OSHA respirator medical evaluation questionnaire (mandatory). <https://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/regulations/standardnumber/1910/1910.134AppC>

Occupational Safety and Health Administration. (2016). Occupational safety and health standards: Personal protective equipment: Eye and face protection. <https://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/regulations/standardnumber/1910/1910.133>

Occupational Safety and Health Administration. (2016). Occupational Safety and Health Standards: Personal Protective Equipment. <https://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/regulations/standardnumber/1910/1910.132>

Occupational Safety and Health Administration. (2016). Safety and Health Regulations for Construction: Personal Protective Equipment and Life-Saving Equipment. <https://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/regulations/standardnumber/1926/1926.102>

Occupational Safety and Health Administration. (2019). Occupational Safety and Health Standards: Bloodborne Pathogens. <https://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/regulations/standardnumber/1910/1910.1030>

Occupational Safety and Health Administration. (2021, December 21). Laser/Electrosurgery plume. <https://www.osha.gov/laser-electrosurgery-plume/standards>

Occupational Safety and Health Administration. (2021, December 21). Respiratory protection eTool. https://www.osha.gov/etools/respiratory-protection#fit_testing

Occupational Safety and Health Administration. (2021, December 21). Respiratory protection: respirator change schedules. <https://www.osha.gov/etools/respiratory-protection/change-schedules>

Occupational Safety and Health Administration. (2021, December 21). Safety and health topics: Healthcare. <https://www.osha.gov/healthcare/standards>

United States Food and Drug Administration. (2021, December 21) Medical device bans. <https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/medical-device-safety/medical-device-bans>

United States Food and Drug Administration. (2021, December 21) Medical gloves. <https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/personal-protective-equipment-infection-control/medical-gloves>

United States Food and Drug Administration. (2021, December 21) Medical gowns. <https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/personal-protective-equipment-infection-control/medical-gowns>

United States Food and Drug Administration. (2021, December 21). N95 Respirators, Surgical Masks, Face Masks, and Barrier Face Coverings. <https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/personal-protective-equipment-infection-control/n95-respirators-surgical-masks-face-masks-and-barrier-face-coverings>

Free Access: Guidelines

Association of Surgical Technologists. (2008). AST guidelines for best practices in laser safety. https://www.ast.org/uploadedFiles/Main_Site/Content/About_Us/Standard%20Laser%20Safety.pdf

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). (2021, December 21.) NIOSH Guide to the Selection and Use of Particulate Respirators Certified Under 42 CFR 84. <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/96-101/>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (n.d.) Guidance to the selection and use of personal protective equipment (PPE) in healthcare settings. [PowerPoint slides]. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. <https://www.cdc.gov/project-firstline/hcp/training/PPE-WorkDay.html>

Sehulster LM, Chinn RYW, Arduino MJ, Carpenter J, Donlan R, Ashford D, Besser R, Fields B, McNeil MM, Whitney C, Wong S, Juranek D, Cleveland J. Guidelines for environmental infection control in health-care facilities. Recommendations from CDC and the Healthcare Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee (HICPAC). Chicago IL; American Society for Healthcare Engineering/American Hospital Association. 2003. https://www.cdc.gov/infection-control/media/pdfs/guideline-environmental-h.pdf?CDC_AAref_Val=https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/pdf/guidelines/environmental-guidelines-P.pdf

Siegel JD, Rhinehart E, Jackson M, Chiarello L, and the Healthcare Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee, 2007. Appendix A: Type and Duration of Precautions Recommended for Selected Infections and Conditions. <https://www.cdc.gov/infection-control/hcp/isolation-precautions/appendix-a-type-duration.html>

Free Access: Standards

United States Consumer Report Safety Commission. (2008). Standard for the flammability of clothing textiles. https://www.cpsc.gov/s3fs-public/Flammability%20of%20Clothing%20Textiles%20Test%20Manual_1610.pdf

Free Access: Resources

Association of Perioperative Registered Nurses. (2019). 3 interventions when using a powered air-purifying respirator in the OR. <https://www.aorn.org/article/2019-10-22-Powered-Air-Purifying-Respirator>

Association of Perioperative Registered Nurses. (2021). AORN guidelines in the era of COVID-19. <https://doi.org/10.1002/aorn.13331>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). (2013). Getting optimal performance from a powered air-purifying respirator (PAPR) depends on the condition of its battery: NIOSH fact sheet. <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2013-146/pdfs/2013-146.pdf>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). (2016). Preparedness through daily practice: The myths of respiratory protection in healthcare. <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/wp-solutions/2016-109/default.html>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). (2018) Filtering out confusion: Frequently asked questions about respiratory protection. <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2018-130/pdfs/2018-130.pdf>

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Health (NIOSH). (2021, December 21.) About NIOSH.

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Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). (n.d). A guide to air-purifying respirators.

<https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2018-176/>

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https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/media/pdfs/2024/12/npptl_info_whatareaprs_2017.pdf?CDC_AAref_Val=https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/npptl/pdfs/FY17_N95infographicWhatAreAPR-508.pdf

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https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/ppe/protective-clothing/?CDC_AAref_Val=https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/npptl/topics/protectiveclothing/

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https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/ppe/respirators/elastomeric.html?CDC_AAref_Val=https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/npptl/respirators/elastomeric/default.html

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, The National Personal Protective Technology Laboratory (NPPTL). (2021, December 21.) Hospital Respiratory Protection Program Toolkit.

https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/healthcare/hcp/rpp-toolkit/?CDC_AAref_Val=https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/npptl/hospresptoolkit/default.html

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https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/healthcare/respiratory-protection/?CDC_AAref_Val=https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/npptl/hospresptoolkit/training.html

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, The National Personal Protective Technology Laboratory (NPPTL). (2021, December 21.) Respirator Types and Use.

https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/ppe/respirators/?CDC_AAref_Val=https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/npptl/topics/respirators/disp_part/respource3fittest.html

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Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, The National Personal Protective Technology Laboratory (NPPTL). (n.d). Understanding the difference. https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/media/pdfs/2024/12/npptl_info_understandingthedifference_2019.pdf?CDC_AAref_Val=https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/npptl/pdfs/UnderstandingDifference3-508.pdf

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