

Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) for Ebola or Marburg:

Reprocessing Medical Equipment and Personal
Protective Equipment (PPE)

Healthcare Settings with Limited to Intermediate Resources

Learning Objectives

After this presentation, participants will be able to

- Identify items that can and can't be reprocessed.
- Explain why proper reprocessing of medical equipment and PPE is important in the context of Ebola or Marburg.
- Explain what steps to take and what PPE to wear when reprocessing PPE.

Which of these items could safely be re-used once they've been cleaned and disinfected?

☐ Paper face mask

☐ Syringe

☐ Thermometer

☐ Rubber boots

☐ Goggles

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Reprocessing Medical Equipment & PPE

Definition: Reprocessing

- Reprocessing (sometimes called decontaminating) medical equipment and PPE is the **process of making reusable medical equipment and PPE safe for reuse.**
- Reprocessing = cleaning + disinfecting

Why Is Reprocessing Important?

- **Viruses that cause Ebola or Marburg can live/persist on medical equipment** (thermometers, surgical instruments, etc.) **and used PPE.**
- Inappropriate reprocessing of medical equipment and PPE can contribute to the spread of Ebola or Marburg in facilities. It puts you, other staff, and patients at risk.
- Proper reprocessing helps keep you, others in your healthcare facility, and your community safe.

When to Reprocess

Equipment is reprocessed based on the **category of medical equipment and manufacturer's instructions for reprocessing**

- Single use medical equipment and PPE (needles, paper face masks) are **not** manufactured to be reprocessed
 - Reprocessing can compromise integrity of instrument/equipment
- Reusable instruments/equipment (stethoscopes, thermometers) can be reprocessed
- Reusable PPE items (rubber gloves, thick aprons, rubber boots, goggles) can be reprocessed

How to Reprocess Reusable PPE

1. **Clean** with soap and water, using mechanical action (e.g., scrubbing), to remove any contamination
2. **Disinfect**
 - Soak in 0.05% chlorine for 30 minutes
3. **Rinse with water** (removes chlorine residue)
4. **Hang to dry**



<http://cdcmuseum.org/exhibits/show/Ebola/public-health/ipc>

*Any liquid waste (water for cleaning items, chlorine solution) is poured into separate latrine

Reprocessing in the Context of Ebola or Marburg

- **Single-use/disposable** equipment and PPE should be used for Ebola or Marburg patients whenever possible
- Staff who are reprocessing equipment or PPE that has been used for the care of suspected or confirmed Ebola or Marburg patients should:
 - **Wear full PPE for Ebola or Marburg** to avoid contact with blood or other body fluids and any splashes to the mucus membranes of the face
 - **Wear thick rubber gloves** to protect against the chemicals used



Healthcare workers reprocessing equipment while wearing PPE for Ebola or Marburg (including rubber gloves)

Reflection

- How is the reprocessing of medical equipment and PPE in the context of Ebola or Marburg different from how reprocessing is currently done in your facility?
- What challenges might be encountered when trying to properly reprocess items at your facility?

Key Takeaways

- Some medical equipment, and PPE can be safely reused if they are designed for re-use and properly reprocessed.
- Proper reprocessing (cleaning + disinfection) helps prevent the spread of Ebola or Marburg and protects:

YOU

Your patients & co-workers

Your community

Thank you!

For more information, contact CDC
1-800-CDC-INFO (232-4636)
TTY: 1-888-232-6348 www.cdc.gov

The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

