

# Storing and Safely Using Microfibre Reusable Gowns in Island Health During the COVID-19 Pandemic (Regional)



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| <b>Applies to:</b> | All Healthcare Providers and Housekeeping Staff working in Island Health during the COVID-19 Pandemic who use or work with microfibre reusable gowns.  |
| <b>Purpose:</b>    | To learn: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Where and how to get clean microfibre reusable gowns and where to store them until they are used for patient care.</li><li>• How to store soiled gowns safely until they are taken to the Linen Distribution Area to be transported for cleaning.</li><li>• The Housekeeping process for dropping off soiled gowns and restocking the supply of clean gowns.</li></ul> |

Island Health is temporarily using microfibre reusable gowns in our hospital facilities in response to the limited supply of PPE during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Please follow the information in this document to ensure clean gowns stay separated from used gowns; this will help prevent cross-contamination, promote a safe work environment, and support quick and easy access to clean, reusable gowns.

## At the Start of Your Shift

1. Pick up your supply of clean microfibre reusable gowns from the designated clean linen location in your facility.

## After Each Patient

You need to doff your microfibre reusable gown after each patient encounter.

1. Doff the gown inside the patient's room, following the steps on the reusable gowns doffing instructions poster.
2. Drop the used gown into the laundry hamper inside of the patient's room.

## Healthcare Team Responsibilities

It is important for all health care providers to work collaboratively with housekeeping staff to ensure all laundry bags (3/4 full) are removed from the clinical area and taken to the soiled storage area. These combined efforts will ensure timely laundering of the microfibre reusable gowns, reduce the potential of bioburden and cross contamination, and support safe work practices. Clinical staff should follow the housekeeping steps below when removing laundry bags from the patient rooms.

## Re-Usable Gowns: Pick Up and Delivery Process

- **Housekeeping** will collect the soiled gowns from the patient's room when the laundry bag is 3/4 full, tie the bag closed, and remove the bag from the clinical area.
- **Housekeeping** will deliver the laundry bags to the soiled storage area for pick up.

- **Linen porters** will pick up soiled gowns from the soiled storage area and ensure gowns are delivered for pick up by regional laundry services.
- **Linen porters** will pick up the clean microfiber reusable gowns from the laundry distribution area and deliver clean gowns (per linen quota) to the clean linen location on your unit.

**Note:** The use of microfiber reusable gowns within Island Health facilities is currently underway. If your department would like to implement reusable gowns on your unit, please contact [Janice.evans@viha.ca](mailto:Janice.evans@viha.ca).

### **Additional Educational Resources**

For details about education on reusable gowns, please see:

[Instructing Staff Procedures Related to Reusable Microfibre Gowns](#)

To review how to don and doff the reusable gowns please refer to the following resources:

[Donning and Doffing PPE: Droplet and Contact with Reusable Gown \(poster\)](#)

[Doffing PPE: Droplet and Contact with Reusable Gown \(video\).](#)