

PPE Spotter Role Description



What is a Spotter?

A Trained Spotter is a healthcare worker – most likely a nurse, trained by an Infection Preventionist, whose sole responsibility is to safely guide health care workers as they safely don (put on) and doff (take off) personal protective equipment, or PPE in order to minimise risk of healthcare worker infections across Western Health's designated high risk COVID areas

When acting as a Trained Spotter you will be supernumerary and not be delivering care directly to patients. Instead you will focus on ensuring the safety of health care workers and in some instances act as their doffing assistants.

You may directly assist as they don their PPE. As a Spotter you will also offer doffing assistance, as such you should keep any and all direct physical contact to a bare minimum to prevent cross contamination.

When you work with a healthcare worker and delivering care directly to patients, if you are acting as a doffing assistant you **may not** physically assist at all. You are there to monitor, protect, and guide health care workers through the Western Health PPE guidelines of safely donning and doffing PPE.

An effective Trained Spotter:

- Is vigilant in spotting defects in equipment
- Is proactive in identifying upcoming risks
- Follows the provided PPE checklist, but focuses on the big picture of the clinical environment
- Is informative, supportive and well-paced in issuing instructions or advice on PPE to all attending staff
- Always practices hand hygiene immediately after providing assistance
- Have organizational authority and empowerment to to 'speak up' and call out unsafe PPE practices that is not in accordance with WH infection prevention best practice and guidelines.

Key Responsibilities:

The core role of a Spotter is to ensure all staff working on, or on entry to designated clinical COVID areas adhere to the following:

- Safe compliance with Western Health's PPE requirements that minimises infectious risks to healthcare workers, patients and the healthcare worker environment
- Act as role model for best practice in the safe and correct use of PPE
- Be a roving member of staff to support PPE best practice for clinical and non-clinical staff in allocated areas
- Monitor compliance through training on PPE and basic infection prevention principles
- Undertake just in time upskilling education/coaching with staff as required if unsafe practice is observed and provide positive feedback
- Undertake necessary formal and informal monitoring within the allocated clinical setting including associated clinical area break rooms



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- Ensure appropriate promotional PPE material is displayed in key points at clinical area entrances and within the ward environment
- Respond to staff concerns around OH&S issues for staff experiencing skin or pressure injuries associated with prolonged use of PPE
- Have good grasp of the available resources on the Coronavirus microsite to guide self and staff

Shift Responsibilities

- Report to NUM/MUM or In Charge at the beginning of shift for allocated area
 - After hours report to the site AHA initially if not from that ward
- Introduce yourself to each clinical team member and visiting staff
- Ensure staff entering the ward are in the appropriate Tier PPE for that area
 - That all staff are **Bare Below the Elbow** to facilitate hand effective hygiene
- Ensure the safety of each team member by spotting (observing) the donning and doffing process of all staff in the area plus observing mask practices in staff areas
- Ensure correct OH&S and infection prevention procedure and **'Speak Up'** for safety
- Ensure that the appropriate patient room posters for transmission based precautions are in place to assist staff
- Conduct one-on-one in situ PPE coaching/training when needed from observations
- Encourage a 'no haste' approach for staff when they are donning and doffing especially in MET or emergency response situations
- Be the go-to person for appropriate usage of PPE in line with the Tier PPE designation for that area
- Be the PPE resource to ensure PPE stock is readily available
- Ensure any equipment that comes out of a room or bay is cleaned i.e. vital signs machines and thermometers
- Ensure staff clean appropriately their face shields or goggles, stethoscopes, mobile phones, devices, WOWs etc. as required
- Wear the provided PPE Spotter sticker to clearly be identified by all staff
- Provide a shift summary of key issues identified via email WHPPESpotters@wh.org.au
- Liaise with Infection Prevention at each site for any issues identified. Can be contacted on 56113 from 7.30am – 4pm
 - after hours 4pm to 9.30pm weekdays
 - 7.30am – 9.30pm via Switchboard – ask for IP on call (COVID)