



<b>Policy No:</b> SJD/HS/24	<b>Authorised by:</b> Davina Powell	<b>Review Date:</b> 24th October 2023
<b>Policy Date:</b> 26th April 2021		<b>Date of Next Review:</b> 23rd October 2024
<b>PROTECTIVE CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT</b>		

## Policy Statement

'Infection control' denotes a wide range of policies, procedures and techniques intended to prevent the spread of infectious diseases amongst staff and service users. All staff working in SJD Homes are at risk of infection, or of spreading infection, especially if their role brings them into contact with blood or bodily fluids like urine, faeces, vomit or sputum. Such substances may well contain pathogens that can be spread if staff do not take adequate precautions.

Disposable gloves and protective clothing, such as aprons, offer staff some protection from being contaminated with an infection and then passing it on to somebody else.

## The Policy

SJD Homes believes that adherence to strict guidelines on infection control is of paramount importance in ensuring the safety of both service users and staff.

We believe that good, basic hygiene is the most powerful weapon against infection, particularly with respect to hand washing. Our aim is to prevent spread of infection amongst staff, service users and local community.

## Goals

The goals of SJD Homes are to ensure that:

- Service users, their families and staff are as safe as possible from acquiring infections through work-based activities.
- Staff are aware of and put into operation basic principles of infection control.

## Infection Control Procedures

In SJD Homes:

- All staff should adhere to this Protective Clothing Policy and use the disposable gloves and aprons which are provided for staff who are at risk of coming into direct contact with body fluids, or who are performing personal care tasks.
- Staff should treat every spillage of body fluids or body waste as quickly as possible and consider every spillage potentially infectious; they should wear protective gloves and aprons and use the disposable wipes provided wherever possible.

## **Protective Clothing Procedures**

The hands or clothes of staff are likely to be the most common means of transmission of infection unless basic precautions are taken. This involves hand washing between contacts and the correct use of protective clothing such as disposable gloves (sterile and non-sterile) and disposable aprons.

Disposable gloves and aprons are provided for all staff at risk of coming into direct contact with body fluids.

Gloves should be worn at all times during personal care or cleaning procedures and disposed of immediately after the procedure or contact is finished. Gloves should always be changed between service users. On no account should staff attempt to wash and reuse gloves.

Plastic, disposable aprons are also provided for use by care staff. Aprons should be used in procedures where body fluids may be involved, or where there is risk to clothing from substances such as bleach. They should be changed between contacts with individual service users.

## **Latex allergies**

Some people can develop allergic reactions to the latex within disposable gloves. Any member of staff who suspects that they might be suffering from an allergic reaction to the latex gloves provided should stop using them immediately and inform the line manager/supervisor. They should also consult their GP.

## **Related Policies**

Code of Conduct for Workers  
Health and Safety  
Infection Control

## **Training Statement**

New staff are required to read the policies on infection control, and protective clothing as part of their induction process. In-house training sessions should be conducted at least annually and all relevant staff should attend. Unit Manager is responsible for organising and co-ordinating training.