







PPE to Reduce Exposure to Unregulated Substances in Hospitals

Last update: February 2025

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) can reduce unintentional exposure to unregulated substances in hospital settings.

What PPE can reduce my exposure?

Follow this guidance before entering a space where someone has been using unregulated substances. See “Cleaning Guidelines for Unregulated Substances” for additional measures required for cleaning.

Contact Points	Is PPE needed?	Suggested PPE
Hands	 <p>Yes. Hands could touch spilled powder or liquid while cleaning.</p>	 <p>Wear nitrile gloves. Do not touch your eyes or face with gloved hands.</p>
Lungs	 <p>Yes. You could inhale smoke if someone has been smoking substances.</p>	 <p>Wear respiratory protection if you need to enter a room where you might inhale a substance.</p>
Clothing or Body	 <p>No. It’s unlikely that your skin or clothing will come in contact with unregulated substances.</p>	No PPE is required.
Eyes or Face	 <p>No. It’s unlikely that your eyes or face will come in contact with unregulated substances.</p>	No PPE required, except when cleaning: Follow workplace guidelines for chemical cleaners.

For more information:

- WorkSafeBC Prevention Information Line for health and safety assistance: 1-888-621-7233
- Contact harm.reduction@bccdc.ca for more information on this guidance.