
Why healthcare workers need a PAPR and full hood

According to a summary findings report by an independent expert panel,¹ Pauline Cafferkey from Scotland, working with Save the Children, was infected because her PPE was inadequate. Specifically, the panel found fault with using a visor rather than goggles. The approved PPE is also risky because you have to take goggles off before the hood which leaves the eyes exposed when doffing the hood.

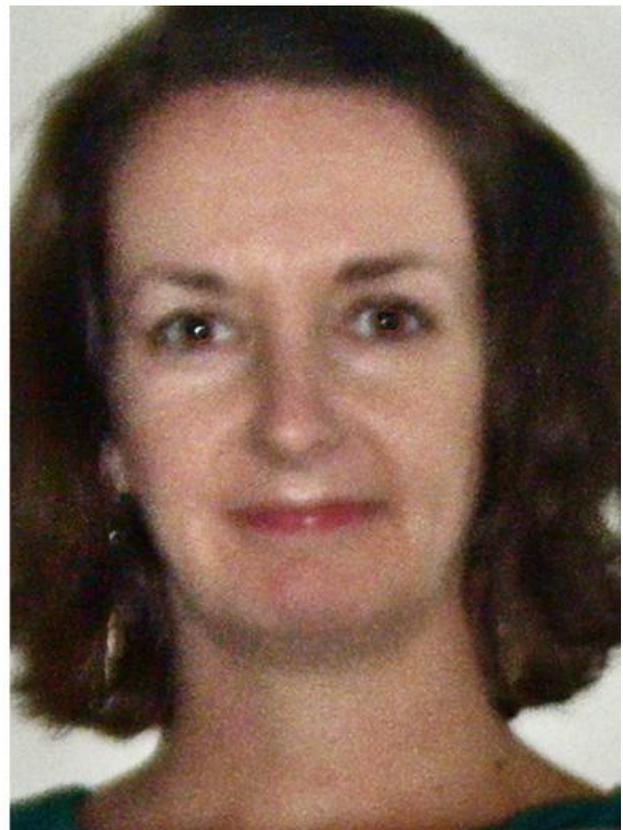
Save the Children - approved PPE²



¹ http://www.savethechildren.org.uk/sites/default/files/images/Significant_Event_Review_Summary_Findings.pdf and <http://www.savethechildren.org.uk/node/4001>, accessed February 6, 2015.

² <http://blogs.savethechildren.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/EbolaSuit.jpg>, accessed February 6, 2015.

PPE worn by Cafferkey³



³ <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/feb/04/ebola-nurse-pauline-cafferkey-infected-visor-report> and http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/multimedia/archive/00828/ebola_comp_828779b.jpg , accessed February 6, 2015.

The CDC-approved N95 + full face shield option appears to offer similar, or perhaps inferior, coverage; goggles are not an option in the CDC guidance for a hospital setting.⁴ This guidance allows hospitals to mix and match N95 or PAPR with gown or coveralls.



CDC on the limits of its recommended PPE⁵

Single-use (disposable) N95 respirator in combination with single-use (disposable) surgical hood extending to shoulders and single-use (disposable) full face shield.** If N95 respirators are used instead of PAPRs, careful observation is required to ensure healthcare workers are not inadvertently touching their faces under the face shield during patient care.

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** Note: A full face shield may not provide full face protection in the setting of significant splashing.

⁴ <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/healthcare-us/ppe/guidance.html>; the photo comes from the CDC website which references Medscape <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/healthcare-us/ppe/index.html>; also see the CDC video at the 33 second mark here: http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/hcp/ppe-training/n95respirator_gown/donning_13.html, accessed February 6, 2015

⁵ <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/healthcare-us/ppe/guidance.html>, accessed February 6, 2015. A review of the CDC website on October 30, 2015 found that the text has been changed to the following:

N95 Respirator: Single-use (disposable) N95 respirator or higher in combination with single-use (disposable) surgical hood extending to shoulders and single-use (disposable) full face shield¹. If N95 respirators are used instead of PAPRs, healthcare workers should be carefully observed to ensure that they do not inadvertently touch their faces under the face shield during patient care.

Note that the double-asterisk was changed to footnote 1, which is not found anywhere on the page.