

Personal protective equipment (PPE) refers to wearable equipment that is designed to protect from exposure to or contact with, infectious agents. PPE includes gloves, face masks, protective eyewear, face shields, and protective clothing (e.g., reusable or disposable gown, jacket, laboratory coat). Barton College supports the continued appropriate use of PPE as indicated by the instance and professional guidelines associated with it.

The emergence of the coronavirus requires that the College clarify when faculty and staff should wear gloves. The guidance below is given with an eye towards the coronavirus and should not be taken to govern instances, such as work in a science lab, where effective PPE protocols already exist.

**Wear gloves when anticipating contact with:**

Blood or body substances (i.e., fluids or solids), Mucous membranes (e.g., nasal, oral, genital area), Non-intact skin (e.g., wound or surgical incision), Insertion point of a patient's invasive or indwelling device.

**If a disinfectant or cleaning agent indicates that gloves should be worn when the substance is being used, then gloves should be worn.**

In contrast, there are instances where gloves are not indicated for use. Wearing gloves outside of these instances (for example, when using a shopping cart or using an ATM) will not necessarily provide protection from getting COVID-19 and may still lead to the spread of germs.

**The best protection from germs when completing daily tasks or normal day-to-day interactions is regular hand washing with soap and water for 20 seconds or the use of hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.**

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/gloves.html>

**When Barton will supply gloves to students, staff, or faculty?**

Barton expects students, staff, and faculty to wear gloves at the times indicated above, and will provide gloves to people who are expected to come into contact with bodily substances as part of their role at the College. Barton will not provide gloves for use in instances where gloves are not indicated.