



Management of Linen for patients with confirmed or suspected COVID-19

Standard Precautions apply to the handling of all soiled linen from patients with confirmed or suspected COVID-19. This is in accordance with Australian Standard AS/NZS 4146:2000.

Soiled linen from patients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 should be managed as follows:

- Stockpiling of clean or soiled linen in the patient room is not to occur.
- Clean linen is to be stored outside patient rooms.
- Any unused linen in the patient room is to be laundered and not returned to general use.
- The linen skip is to be lined with a soluble plastic bag and kept inside the patient room.
- Soiled linen is to be deposited directly into the linen skip in the patient room.
- Do not shake the linen or otherwise cause aerosolisation of infectious particles.
- Avoid contact with soiled linen by holding items away from the body prior to depositing in the linen skip.
- The linen skip must be replaced when $\frac{3}{4}$ full.
- Tie the soluble plastic bag then tie the linen bag to prevent it opening during soiled linen transport or storage.
- Wear gloves when transporting soiled bagged linen to the dirty linen trolley.
- Perform hand hygiene after removal of gloves after contact with soiled linen and laundry.
- There is no need to wear surgical or P2/N95 masks or protective eyewear when handling bagged laundry.
- Laundry workers will place the soluble plastic linen bag into the washer to avoid handling the soiled linen.

Reference:

Coronavirus Disease-19 (COVID-19) [CDNA National Guidelines for Public Health Units](#)

[Australian Guidelines for the Prevention and Control of Infection in Healthcare](#) Canberra: National Health and Medical Research Council (2019).

WA Department of Health Coronavirus Disease-19 (COVID-19) Infection Prevention and Control in the Hospital Setting

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