

Non-contaminated uniforms and scrubs

Keeping yourself and your patients safe

Hospital laundries can only launder non-contaminated uniforms where available and where they have capacity. Health Boards with on-site or facilities laundries will have local policies for labelling staff uniforms for collection and return.

Where on-site or facilities laundries are not available, used uniforms and scrubs or clothes worn by staff who are wearing their own clothes, that are not contaminated with blood or bodily fluids (including COVID-19 contamination), should be laundered at home.

Home laundering guidance for uniforms and scrubs

Take your uniform or clothes home in a disposable plastic bag. **These will be made available to staff by your local department.** This bag should be disposed of into the household waste stream.

Uniforms should be:

- **washed separately from other items**
- **in a load not more than half machine capacity**
- **washed at the hottest temperature appropriate for the fabric as identified on the label, then ironed or tumble dried**

Washing with detergents at 30°C will remove most microorganisms. A ten-minute wash at 60°C is sufficient to remove almost all microorganisms and minimise risk from others.

Alginate bags should not be used in domestic washing machines. There is no evidence to suggest home laundering is a less effective method of laundering non-contaminated uniform. It is best practice to change into and out of uniforms, including shoes, at work. This does not apply to community health workers. Healthcare facilities should provide dedicated changing rooms/areas.

General Guidance

Uniformed staff

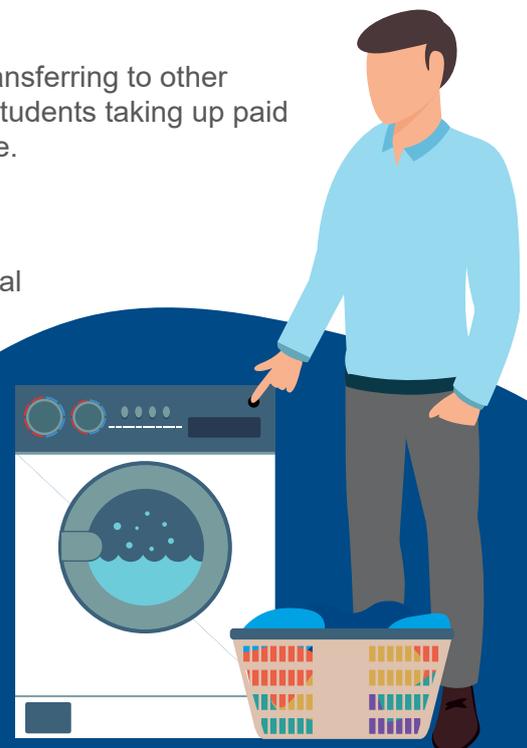
There is no increased risk providing guidance is followed on changing uniforms and scrubs – one per shift or session, **unless the uniform becomes contaminated.**

Uniformed staff should continue to wear Uniforms and scrubs. If you are transferring to other locations/boards, take your own uniform with you, if possible. Health care students taking up paid employment should continue to wear their student uniforms, where possible.

Non-uniformed staff

You will be allocated suitable work wear for your role if required by your local department. However, where staff are wearing their own clothes along with appropriate PPE, there is no evidence of infection risk for staff who are laundering non-contaminated clothes at home.

PLEASE SEE OUR 'CONTAMINATED UNIFORMS AND SCRUBS' POSTER FOR OTHER INFORMATION



Health Protection Scotland have confirmed that existing infection control procedures, including arrangements for laundering uniforms and scrubs, still apply for COVID-19.