Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Activity
_Instructor Guide_

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES**
- Explain the importance of PPE.
- Explain the importance of handwashing.

**PREPARATION TIME:** 5 minutes

**ACTIVITY TIME:** 10 minutes

**MATERIALS**
- Shaving cream
- Personal protective equipment (PPE), such as gloves, shoe covers, coveralls, face mask, etc.

**EXPLANATION OF ACTIVITY**
Germs can be present even when things (clothing, gloves, shoes, equipment, etc.) appear clean or when animals appear healthy.

**INSTRUCTIONS**
1. Ask at least one volunteer to dress in PPE.
2. Once dressed in PPE, fill the volunteer’s hands with shaving cream.
3. Ask the volunteer to remove PPE.
4. Lead a group discussion about how clean the volunteer is able to keep his/her clothing, skin, etc.
5. Discuss the importance of handwashing even when wearing gloves and other PPE. Even when hands were visibly contaminated, it was hard to stay clean.
DISCUSSION

• Discuss the importance of handwashing in disease prevention.
• Discuss ways to prevent direct contact transmission:
  o Isolate sick animals
  o Wear gloves when working with sick animals
  o Wash your hands after having contact with animals or being in animal areas even if you did not touch the animals
• Discuss ways to prevent indirect contact transmission:
  o Avoid sharing equipment, or clean and disinfect equipment when sharing is necessary
  o Clean and disinfect any equipment used with sick animals or animals with skin lesions
  o Dispose of or wash boots and clothing after animal contact
  o Wash your hands after having contact with animals or being in animal areas even if you did not touch the animals
• Discuss ways to prevent aerosol transmission:
  o Increase distance between sick animals and healthy animals and people
  o Wear respiratory protection when working with sick animals
  o Provide fresh air to animals and people
  o Decrease humidity and odor build up in barns
  o Stay away from animal barns if you are sick
• Discuss ways to prevent oral transmission:
  o Wash your hands
    ▪ After contact with animals or being in animal areas even if you did not touch the animals
    ▪ After cleaning pens or contact with manure
    ▪ Before preparing or handling food
    ▪ After going to the bathroom
  o Cook meat to the appropriate temperature
  o Store food at the appropriate temperature
• Discuss ways to prevent vector borne transmission:
  o Use insect control products
  o Work with your veterinarian to check and treat your animals for parasites
  o Prevent standing water
  o Check for ticks on people and pets