

How to choose the right isolation gown for your risk level

You should know:

Cover gowns are not rated and provide **nominal protection**—a physical barrier only.¹



Start with AAMI ratings. Here's how the Association for the Advancement of Medical Instrumentation (AAMI) classifies isolation gowns:



Level 1 Minimal-risk situations

Slight barrier protection from:

- Small amounts of fluid penetration

Examples of use:

- Basic care
- Standard isolation or contact precaution
- Standard medical unit



Level 2 Low-risk situations

Low barrier protection from:

- Larger amounts of fluid penetration through splatter
- Some fluid exposure through soaking

Examples of use:

- Droplet precaution
- Blood draw
- Suturing
- Intensive care unit (ICU)
- Pathology lab



It's all
about fluid
resistance

Level 3 Moderate-risk situations

Moderate barrier protection from:

- Higher amounts of fluid penetration through splatter than Level 2
- More fluid exposure through soaking than Level 2

Examples of use:

- Droplet precaution
- Arterial blood draw
- Intravenous (IV) line insertion
- Emergency department
- Decontamination/Sterile processing department
- Trauma cases



Level 4 High-risk situations

High barrier protection:

- Prevents fluid and virus penetration²

Examples of use:

- Long, fluid-intense procedures
- Surgery
- Pathogen resistance is needed
- Highly infectious diseases such as Ebola are suspected¹



Go deeper. Learn how gowns are tested and other factors to consider. **Read the article.**



Infection Prevention

References:

1. <https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/personal-protective-equipment-infection-control/medical-gowns#g4>
2. <https://www.cdc.gov/PPEInfo/Standards/Info/ANSI/AAMIPB70Class3>

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MKT19W2625175 / e21899 / 49