



LONG SLEEVE LAB COATS: On March 30, MAFP asked Dr. Michael Edmond, MD, MPH, MPA, MBA - [author of this article on Kevinmd](#) -- what he thought about white coats being worn during this time. Dr. Edmond is Clinical Professor of Infectious Diseases at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics.

His response: "We don't have data that bare-below-the-elbows reduces infections, but we have biologic plausibility. Numerous studies have shown that clothing becomes contaminated at work. Sleeve cuffs are particularly at risk since they touch the patient and the patient's environment and cannot be decontaminated between patients. Studies in simulation labs show that provider clothes inoculated with bacteria or viruses, followed by a physical exam performed on a mannequin, result in transfer of microorganism to the mannequin, and vice versa. Moreover, studies show that white

coats are infrequently laundered. Putting all of that together, it is simply common sense to get rid of them, particularly now."