

Use and Maintenance of Approved Eye Protection during the COVID-19 Pandemic

Introduction

- During the COVID-19 pandemic eye protection is to be worn when interacting with any patient, regardless of whether or not they have symptoms of COVID-19, or are COVID-19 positive.
- In clinical areas, only use approved eye protection purchased through the appropriate channels at Sunnybrook. Staff may not bring their own eye protection to work, and managers may not purchase eye protection for their staff from outside sources.
- Prescription glasses are NOT considered eye protection.

Types of Eye Protection

Approved forms of eye protection include the following when issued by Sunnybrook. As there are many variations of these products available on the market, only those brands and styles approved by the hospital may be worn:

- Face shield
- Mask with integrated visor
- Goggles
- Safety glasses

Extended Use and Reuse

Extended use: the practice of using the same PPE for multiple encounters with different patients, without removing between patient encounters.

Reuse: the practice of using the same PPE by one staff member for multiple encounters with different patients, including safely doffing and donning as needed.

Type of Eye Protection	Extended Use Permitted	Reuse Permitted	Maintenance
Face shield	Yes	No	Discard once removed
Mask with integrated visor	Yes	No	Discard once removed
Goggles	Yes	Yes	Clean and disinfect* when visibly soiled, if placed on a contaminated surface and at the end of each shift
Safety glasses	Yes	Yes	Clean and disinfect* when visibly soiled, if placed on a contaminated surface and at the end of each shift

When and where eye protection is permitted:

Note that a mask is required in all areas of the hospital and may only be removed when physical distancing of at least 6 feet/2 metres from others can be maintained.

	Patient care	Nursing station	Off unit (not for patient transport)	Eating/drinking areas
Face shield	one of these required	not permitted	not permitted (unless traveling between units for patient care)	not permitted
Mask with integrated visor		permitted but not required	permitted but not required	not permitted
Goggles		permitted but not required	permitted but not required	not permitted
Safety glasses		permitted but not required	permitted but not required	not permitted

Reusable Eye Protection

Approved goggles and safety glasses may be reused by the same staff member with the following safety protocols in place:

- Write your name on the eye protection with a permanent marker.
- Minimize the number of times you doff and don the eye protection as there is a risk of self-contamination each time you bring your hands to your face.
- Wear the eye protection only over your eyes and not another part of your body (e.g., on top of head).
- Goggles and safety glasses must be stored in a clean dry location between uses.
- Goggles and safety glasses may not be taken out of the hospital.
- Goggles and safety glasses may not be worn in areas designated for eating and drinking (e.g., breaks rooms, cafeterias, etc.).

Donning and doffing:

- Perform hand hygiene immediately before and after donning and doffing eye protection.
- Eye protection is to be removed by handling only the portion of the equipment that secures the device to the head (e.g., temples of safety glasses, elasticized band of goggles, etc.) as these should be less contaminated than the lenses.
- Once removed, place eye protection in a clean dry location until ready for reuse.
- Avoid making direct contact with the eyes, nose and mouth when donning and doffing eye protection.

Cleaning and disinfection*:

Reusable eye protection is to be cleaned and disinfected whenever visibly soiled, if placed on a contaminated surface and at the end of each shift. Eye protection is never to be shared between staff members.

1. Prepare a clean surface and lay out a clean piece of paper towel
 2. Perform hand hygiene
 3. Don clean gloves
 4. Clean and disinfect eye protection
 - a. If applicable, clean visibly soiled areas with a hospital-approved disinfectant wipe to remove any debris
 - i. carefully wipe the inside, followed by the outside (moving from clean to dirty) ensuring all surfaces are saturated
 - b. To disinfect, wipe the eye protection with a second hospital-approved disinfectant wipe
 - i. carefully wipe the inside, followed by the outside (moving from clean to dirty) ensuring all surfaces are saturated
 - ii. ensure eye protection remains wet for the contact time specified on the wipe container
 5. Place the eye protection on a clean paper towel to dry
 6. Remove gloves
 7. Perform hand hygiene
 8. Once dry, eye protection may be put back on or stored in a clean dry location for future use
 9. Discard paper towel
- If you notice a residual film on lenses, after cleaning and disinfection, wipe eye protection with an alcohol wipe, a clean damp paper towel or rinse with water and dry with a paper towel.
 - If the eye protection is damaged (e.g., cleaning does not restore visibility, broken, etc.) dispose of the eye protection and retrieve a new pair.