

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT EYE PROTECTION AND YOUR CONGREGATE SETTING

Eye Protection – What is it?

Eye protection is a device that covers the eyes and provides a barrier to infectious materials, including COVID-19. Acceptable forms of eye protection include safety glasses, safety goggles, face shields or masks with visors. *Prescription eyeglasses alone are not an acceptable form of eye protection.*

How to ensure eye protection fits properly

Ensure eye protection and medical mask compatibility so that there is no interference with the proper positioning of the eye protection or with the fit or seal of the respirator or mask.

Eye protection should be comfortable, not interfere with visual acuity and fit securely over the face. Eye protection must provide a barrier to splashes from the side.

Masks must be fitted properly prior to adding the eye protection. Please refer to Public Health Ontario (PHO) website and watch the following instructional videos: *Putting on Mask and Eye Protection* and *Taking off Mask and Eye Protection* found here: <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/diseases-and-conditions/infectious-diseases/respiratory-diseases/novel-coronavirus/ppe>

Consideration in selection of eye protection

The type of activity, associated exposures, other personal protective equipment being utilized and personal vision needs must be accounted for when determining the type of eye protection that is required. This may require a facility to provide more than one option of eye protection for staff.

When eye protection is being used as an additional control within the workplace and not as personal protective equipment (PPE) then safety glasses would provide a comfortable option and increase compliance of use.

Proper care of eye protection

Dispose of single use eye protection after the task is completed; this includes masks with visors attached.

If eye protection is reusable it must either be:

- a. reprocessed (cleansed and disinfected) by the facility/organization
- b. designated to an individual staff and the staff are trained on how to properly care, store and reprocess eye protection

Eye protection should be reprocessed when changing your medical mask, during break and end of shift.

A solution must be a cleaner and disinfectant and be effective against COVID-19 with a low contact time to ensure reprocessing can occur quickly during the doffing PPE process.

Ensure your solution has cleaning properties and is approved by Health Canada effective against COVID-19 at <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/disinfectants/covid-19/list.html>

See following information poster “Reuse of Eye Protection” for instructions on storing and reprocessing personal eye protection.