



Universal Eye Protection Guidance - Effective November 2, 2020

BACKGROUND

With higher volumes of COVID-19 patients in our communities, the Ascension Wisconsin Infection Preventionists are expanding previous guidance given on June 22, 2020, and want to make sure that we are aligned with guidance in use of universal eye protection. We have had several prior communications related to use of eye protection with a face shield in addition to a facemask to ensure that eyes, nose and mouth are all protected from exposure to respiratory secretions during patient care encounters.

UPDATED UNIVERSAL EYE PROTECTION GUIDANCE

Until our community transmission decreases: "If SARS-CoV-2 infection is not suspected in a patient presenting for care (based on symptom and exposure history), HCP should follow Standard Precautions. They should also wear eye protection (face shield or goggles) in addition to their facemask to ensure the eyes, nose and mouth are all protected from exposure to respiratory secretions during patient care encounters." (Source: CDC-Implement Universal Use of PPE).

Please follow current guidance on the cleaning and re-use of face shields. If there are any questions, please contact your Infection Preventionist or your site Incident Command team, who can elevate your concerns.

Local Incident Command will implement this guidance effective Monday, November 2, 2020.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

1. The face shield is the recommended eye protection, adding a level of protection from fluids to the mask.
2. You may remove the eye protection once you are no longer patient-facing or in a patient's room.
3. Patient-facing associates include ANYBODY having face-to-face contact (like registration, unless there is a physical barrier such as glass between patient and registration staff) or anybody entering a patient room (like EVS).
4. The eye protection should be wiped down every time it is removed.
5. If going from one patient to the next without any stops or removal of eye protection in between patients, the eye protection does not need to be wiped down.
6. The eye protection may be used for multiple shifts but should be replaced when not able to see through it or when elastic has failed.
7. Do not share face shields with foam or cloth bands on them.
8. Store clean eye protection in designated area when not at work.
9. After disinfection of eye protection with disinfectant, wipe with alcohol or wet cloth after dry to remove cloudiness.