

Eye Protection Recommendations - FAQs

8/7/2020

When do I need eye protection?

You need to wear eye protection when interacting with any patient or visitor who:

- Is COVID-19 positive
- Screens positive to questions (the screening questions we ask patients and staff)
- Is unable to be asked the screening questions (for example, trauma patients, those who are unable to answer)

This means that screeners and those who interact with patients before they are screened must wear eye protection, and anyone caring for patients who screen positive (such as in the ED, Urgent Cares, or Walk-In Clinics) must also wear eye protection.

Do I need to wear eye protection when I am caring for patients who are not suspected to have COVID-19?

No. Eye protection is needed only for patients who are positive for COVID-19 or are suspected to have COVID-19. A shorthand to remember is that if you are wearing an N95 you should be wearing a face shield.

Do I need to wear a face shield in the cafeteria or walking in the hall?

You don't need to wear a face shield in the cafeteria or walking in halls between units.

Do I need to wear a face shield if there is Plexiglas between me and a patient?

No. If there is a physical barrier present between you and the patient, you do not need to wear eye protection.

Can I wear goggles instead of a face shield?

Munson Healthcare recommends the use of face shields instead of goggles because of the increased coverage provided by the face shield, shielding not just your eyes but also the rest of your face and your mask. You may wear goggles instead if wearing a face shield would interfere with patient care. Any goggles must prevent splashes into the eyes from above, below, and the sides. Check with your manager to be sure your goggles comply with eye protection.

How often do I need to disinfect my face shield or goggles?

Munson Healthcare allows extended use of face shields and goggles. This means that you may wear your eye protection throughout the day for extended periods of time without disinfecting between patients or patient rooms. You should disinfect your eye protection at the end of each shift, and should also disinfect it several times throughout the day. In addition, please disinfect your eye protection:

- When it becomes visibly soiled
- When you leave an isolation room
- When you move between COVID-19 units and other units

Refer to the [video online for donning, doffing, and disinfection techniques](#) for face shields, and refer to the manufacturer's guide on how to clean your goggles. Ask your manager if you have questions.

How long should I use my disposable face shield? Should I try to wear it for 5 shifts?

You don't need to use your disposable face shield for 5 shifts. You can reuse your disposable face shield for more than one shift if it was lightly used, is in good condition, and still fits well. Please discard any disposable face shield that is damaged, no longer fastens securely to your head, or if visibility is obscured.

Do I need to perform hand hygiene when I touch my eye protection?

Try not to touch your eye protection during use. If you touch or adjust your eye protection, you should perform hand hygiene. You should also perform hand hygiene when donning or doffing your eye protection as demonstrated in the videos.

How do I disinfect my face shield?

While wearing gloves, carefully wipe the inside, followed by the outside of the face shield or goggles using a clean cloth saturated with neutral detergent solution or approved cleaner wipe. Wipe the outside of face shield or goggles with clean water or alcohol to remove residue, if needed, and allow to fully air dry or use clean absorbent towels to dry.