

Bacteria and viruses can be transmitted to healthcare workers through the mucous membranes of the eye. Eye protection provides a barrier to infectious materials entering the eye and is often used with other personal protective equipment, such as gowns, gloves, and masks.

## Types of Eye Protection



**Goggles** fit snugly around the eyes and across the brow. They are very effective and provide the most reliable eye protection.



**Face Shields** provide face and eye protection. They should wrap around the face to the point of the ear to reduce exposure from the sides.



**Safety Glasses and Stoggles** ('stylish goggles') should fit close to the face at the top, have solid side shields to protect the eyes from droplets and be compatible with germicide solutions required for frequent cleaning and disinfection.



**Full-face elastomeric respirators** and **powered air-purifying respirators (PAPRs)** are designed and used for respiratory protection. These respirators also provide highly effective eye protection.

## When to Wear Eye Protection

### Required

- When caring for symptomatic, suspected or confirmed COVID-19 residents, or exposed residents on Aerosol Contact Isolation Precautions (Full PPE - gown, gloves, eye protection, and N95 respirator).
- When aerosol generation, splashes, or sprays of blood or other body fluids can be expected.
- Refer to Oregon DHS, Oregon OSHA, and Oregon Health Authority for regulatory requirements.

### Recommended

- During all patient care in counties with high community transmission rates. The following link can be used to look up [COVID-19 Community Transmission](#) Levels by County.

- For all resident care for the *duration* of an outbreak

## Disinfection and Storage

### When to disinfect eye protection

- Disinfect eye protection when leaving COVID-19 cohort.
- After caring for a suspected, exposed, symptomatic, or confirmed COVID-19 resident on Aerosol Contact Isolation Precautions who is not cohorted.
- Each time eye protection is removed, such as for breaks and at the end of the day.

### Disinfection Instructions

- Establish a dedicated surface for disinfection eye protection in all areas where PPE is removed such as break spaces and areas where staff leave the building.
- Provide hand sanitizer, neutral cleaner or alcohol, [EPA List N](#) disinfectant, paper towels, and trash.
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions for disinfection. Ensure that contact (wet or dwell) time for the disinfectant used is followed. If instructions are unavailable, use the following steps:
  1. Perform hand hygiene and put on (don) clean gloves
  2. Gross soiling should be removed with soap and water or alcohol
  3. Using a disinfectant from EPA List N, wipe or spray the inside of goggles or face shield, then the outside. Be cautious of wet or strong EPA disinfectants inside of eye protection and close to the eyes as it could cause irritation.
  4. The surface should remain wet for the entire time that the disinfectant's contact time identified on the EPA list N.
  5. Allow to air dry.
  6. Place disinfected eye protection on a paper towel during the break or in the assigned storage container.
  7. Remove (doff) gloves and perform hand hygiene

### Storage of Eye Protection

- Eye protection should be dedicated to individual staff and labeled with their name.
- Staff should not leave the facility with eye protection
- Clean and disinfected eye protection should be stored in a designated clean area
- Use clean individual bins or bags. Labeled bins or bags with the staff member's name.
- Ensure there is enough space so bags are not crammed together.

**Eye protection equipment that has lost integrity, is broken, or cracked should be discarded.**

## Resources

CDC IPC Recommendations for Healthcare Personnel During COVID-19

- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/infection-control-recommendations.html>

CDC on Standard Precautions

- <https://www.cdc.gov/oralhealth/infectioncontrol/summary-infection-prevention-practices/standard-precautions.html>

EPA List N COVID-19 Kill Disinfectants

- <https://cfpub.epa.gov/wizards/disinfectants/>

