

IPC COVID-19 PPE Recommendation for the Preservation and Reuse of Eye Protection

The preservation of [AHS approved](#) Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) supplies such as goggles, safety glasses and face shields (splash protectors) for eye protection is important. Judicious and appropriate use will help with supply management. This guidance document provides strategies to assist with the preservation and reuse of such PPE and can be used when PPE for eye protection is in short supply.

Preservation strategies

- Consider shifting from disposable to reusable eye protection.
 - Each unit or area should ensure there is a process in place for the collection, cleaning and disinfection, storage and redistribution.
- Consider extended use of eye protection.
 - Extended use of eye protection is the practice of wearing the same eye protection for repeated close contact encounters with several different patients, without removing eye protection between patient encounters. Extended use of eye protection can be applied to disposable and reusable devices. Examples of when extended PPE might be used can be found in the following links:
<https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/assets/healthinfo/ipc/hi-ipc-assmt-cntrs-covid-ppe-matrix-res-topics-z0-emerging-issues.pdf>
<https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/assets/healthinfo/ipc/hi-ipc-covid-desgnd-unit.pdf>
- Consider reusing disposable face shields or goggles.

Principles for Reusing Disposable Eye Protection

- Dedicate disposable eye protection to an individual healthcare provider (HCP). Ensure the HCP's full name is marked on the PPE or with some other unique identifier.
- Discard the eye protection if it becomes damaged or heavily soiled.
- Develop a process to store the eye protection in a clean safe place when it is not in use (i.e., during breaks).
- Each HCP is responsible for cleaning and disinfecting their own PPE.

How to Disinfect Eye Protection

- Place eye protection on a clean surface.
- Put on gloves.
- Use a healthcare approved low-level disinfectant wipe to clean and disinfect using a two-step process:
 - Wipe the inside and then the outside with one wipe.
 - Repeat wiping the outside again with a second wipe.
- Fully air dry on a clean surface.
 - Ensure that the surface of the PPE is wet enough to achieve the appropriate contact time for the type of disinfectant used.
- Remove gloves and perform hand hygiene.
- After disinfection if there are streaks on the eye protection making it difficult to see out of, the eye protection can be washed with soap and water or wiped with a clean cloth dampened with water to remove streaking.
- Allow to air dry.

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References

1. WHO 2020 Rational use of personal protective equipment for coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and considerations during severe shortages. Interim guidance. Retrieved April 20, 2020
https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/331695/WHO-2019-nCov-IPC_PPE_use-2020.3-eng.pdf
2. CDC Centres for Disease Control and Prevention Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Strategies for Optimizing the Supply of Eye Protection. Retrieved April 20, 2020
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/ppe-strategy/eye-protection.html>