

# Masks, Eye Protection and Face Shields in Community-based Services

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Masks, eye protection and face shields protect the mucous membranes (i.e., eyes, nose and mouth) of healthcare providers from splashes of blood or body fluids (e.g., client's cough or sneeze).

Masks and eye protection work in tandem. If the [point-of-care risk assessment](#) determines the need for a mask, eye protection is also required as the eyes are an important portal of entry for microorganisms.

Proper eye protection shields eyes in all directions and should be worn when splashes, sprays or droplets of fluid are expected (e.g., tracheostomy care, suctioning, dental or eye/ear nose and throat (ENT) procedures, contact with a client actively coughing, etc.). As per Workplace Health and Safety guidelines, prescription eyewear is not considered adequate eye protection; an additional eye protection barrier is required.

*Prescription eyeglasses are not adequate eye protection and are not considered PPE.*