

# Worker-Supplied Eye Protection

**Note:** If specific program protocols vary from the general recommendations provided in this BPR, refer to, and follow department specific recommendations. If you have any questions or comments contact IPC at [ipcsurvstdadmin@ahs.ca](mailto:ipcsurvstdadmin@ahs.ca).

## Personal protective equipment recommendations

This document addresses safety and compliance with health care standards if non-AHS-supplied personal protective equipment (PPE) is used.

1. Alberta Health Services (AHS) supplies PPE, including gloves (sterile and non-sterile) gowns (disposable and launderable) procedure masks, N95 respirators and eye protection (face shields, safety eyewear and goggles) for use by all staff.

### Eye protection

- a. AHS-supplied eye protection is readily available to all frontline staff throughout the province and includes disposable face shields, mask/face shield combinations, or reusable goggles, safety glasses or reusable face shields.

Individuals are permitted to bring their own prescription or non-prescription eye protection, provided it meets AHS Infection Prevention Control (IPC) specifications.

\*Regular prescription glasses do not meet Workplace Health and Safety regulations for eye protection.

2. Worker-supplied eye protection: (These criteria apply to both prescription and non-prescription eye protection.)
  - a. Prescription eye protection may be purchased by workers for comfort reasons if the eye protection serves the function of both prescription glasses and eye protection. Non-prescription eye protection may also be purchased.
  - b. All worker-supplied eyewear must be dedicated to one worker, not shared or distributed to others in AHS.
  - c. Must meet these criteria:
    - i. Equivalent to AHS-supplied eye protection.
    - ii. Eyewear is intended for use in a healthcare setting to protect the eyes from droplet exposure (eyes are protected from small particles by fitting closely to face at top/brow area and both sides).
    - iii. Eyewear meets CSA and/or ANSI 87.1 standards for personal protective equipment.
    - iv. Eyewear cleaning instructions indicate disinfectants can be safely used to clean and disinfect the eye protection.

\*Please note that use of AHS disinfectants may result in degradation of equipment over time. In addition, disinfectants may leave a film on lenses requiring a water rinse. AHS is not responsible for replacement or repair of any worker-supplied eyewear due to disinfection use.

- d. Workers are responsible for the cost, cleaning and disinfection of all worker-supplied eye protection, following IPC routine practices including an [Infection Prevention and Control Risk Assessment \(IPC RA\)](#).

For more information contact  
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