

Outpatient Departments & Practices: **Eye Protection Usage for Patient-Facing HCP**

<h1>S</h1>	Situation	All patient-facing staff are required to wear eye protection IN ADDITION TO masking when encountering any patient not wearing a mask or face protection reliably. This includes anyone entering an exam room for any reason to provide any level of service. This additional layer of protection is in response to an increase of documented cases in our community, inconsistencies of patients reliably wearing masks, recent staff exposures from not wearing eye protection, and regulatory recommendations.
<h1>B</h1> 	Background	Infectious droplets, such as those which are spread by COVID-19, are transmitted when they enter the body through mucous membranes such as the nose, mouth, or <u>eyes</u> . Exposures occur in this way when masks aren't consistently or appropriately worn, and thus ineffective in capturing all droplets. To avoid this from occurring, eye protection is absolutely necessary: <u>face shields</u> OR <u>safety goggles</u> OR <u>safety glasses</u> . Prescription eye glasses or sunglasses are not considered protective and do not replace safety equipment.
<h1>A</h1> 	Assessment	Several styles of eye protection are available: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full faceshields protect your eyes and also your mask/N95 from droplet contamination. They can be worn, cleaned, labeled with your name, hung, and re-used, per the Re-Use/Extended Use Eye Protection Standard Work. • Mask with faceshield - can be used for extended wear, but not cleaned and hung and must be disposed at the end of the shift • Goggles – can be cleaned and re-used same as faceshields • Safety glasses – can be labeled, cleaned and re-used, same as faceshields until supplies are consistently available. <p>All varieties may not be available and we ask that you are flexible when ordering from Supply Chain/Materials Management.</p> <p>Remember not to touch the front of the eye protection or mask, to prevent contamination. Immediately wash your hands after removing masks or eye protection.</p>
<h1>R</h1>  	Recommendation	Starting Friday, July 10 th , it will be the expectation that all clinical and non-clinical healthcare personnel in all <u>outpatient departments and practices</u> are required to wear eye protection in addition to universal masking when caring for/working with a patient who is not reliably wearing a face covering or mask . This includes, but is not limited to, all physicians, nurse practitioners, nurses, techs, phlebotomists, PA's, MA's, therapists, <u>without exception</u> .
		Mucous membranes of the eyes must be protected from droplets to avoid exposures. Failure to do so, by not wearing eye protection when this is known, puts yourself at risk for infection and the facility at risk for OSHA citations and fines.
		<u>All employees shall employ the Extended Use and Re-Use of Eye Protection Standard Work to conserve limited supplies, until further notice.</u>
		In those departments with a shared administrative responsibility between CMMG and CMMC/RH/BH, enforcement of inpatient vs. outpatient "eye protection usage" protocols is under the discretion of the director of that department.