





Universal Eye Protection for all Direct Patient Facing Staff

<p>S</p>	<p>Situation</p>	<p>All patient facing healthcare personnel providing care to patients, are required to wear eye protection IN ADDITION TO masking. This includes anyone entering a patient or 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.</p>
<p>B</p> 	<p>Background</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>A</p> 	<p>Assessment</p>	<p>Several styles of eye protection are available:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full faceshields are preferred because they 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 are available and can be ordered from Supply Chain/Materials Management. 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>
<p>R</p>  	<p>Recommendation</p>	<p>Starting Monday, July 6th, it will be the expectation that all clinical and non-clinical healthcare personnel providing care to all <u>inpatients at CMMC, Rumford, and Bridgton Hospitals</u> are required to wear eye protection in addition to universal masking. This includes, but is not limited to, all physicians, nurse practitioners, nurses, techs, phlebotomists, CNA's, therapists, tray passers, EVS, and social workers, <u>without exception</u>.</p> <p>Outpatient Practices & Departments, as well as Maine Urgent Care, will be provided separate communication and time for stock to be supplied to all areas.</p> <p>It is still the expectation that all patients and visitors entering CMH facilities will have a face covering as source control and, per the PPE Guidelines from 6/2/20:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Inpatients are required to wear a mask when they are out of their rooms AND during care which requires close or prolonged contact with a healthcare worker while in their room.</i> • <i>Visitors, when allowed, are required to wear a mask in a patient's room when a HCW enters to provide care/service to the patient or the environment.</i>

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