

Reprocessing Eye Protection

Policy & Procedure

Policy

It is the policy of this center to implement Crisis Capacity Strategies for extended use of protective eye wear to assist in protecting staff and residents in the event of PPE shortages during pandemic situations.

Definition

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

Procedure

1. Eye protection should be removed and reprocessed if it becomes visibly soiled or difficult to see through.
2. If a disposable face shield is reprocessed, it will be dedicated to one HCP and reprocessed whenever it is visibly soiled or removed (i.e., when leaving an isolation area) prior to putting it back on.
3. Eye protection will be discarded if damaged (i.e., face shield can no longer fasten securely to the provider, if visibility is obscured and reprocessing does not restore visibility).
4. HCP will take care not to touch their eye protection.
5. If eye protection is touched or adjusted, the HCP will immediately perform hand hygiene.
6. HCP will leave patient care areas if they need to remove their eye protection.
7. If there is no date available on the eye protection device label or packaging, contact the manufacturer for guidance.
8. The HCP will visually inspect the eye protection prior to use and if there are concerns (i.e., degraded materials), discard the product.
9. Eye protection must be worn during care activities where splashes and sprays are anticipated, typically including aerosol generating procedures.
10. Eye protection will be worn during activities where prolonged, face-to-face or close contact with a potentially infectious resident is unavoidable.
11. If available, safety glasses with extensions to cover the side of the eyes will be used.

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This policy and procedure is not intended to replace the informed judgment of individual physicians, nurses or other clinicians nor is it intended as a statement of prevailing community standards or minimum standards of practice. It is a suggested method and technique for achieving optimal health care, not a minimum standard below which residents necessarily would be placed at risk.

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Follow recommended manufacturer instructions for cleaning and disinfection.

When manufacturer instructions for cleaning and disinfection are unavailable, such as for single use disposable face shields:

1. Don gloves, carefully wipe the inside, followed by the outside of the face shield or goggles using a clean cloth saturated with neutral detergent solution or disposable cleansing wipes.
2. Carefully wipe the outside of the face shield or goggles using an EPA-registered disinfectant wipe or clean cloth saturated with EPA-registered hospital disinfectant solution.
3. Wipe the outside of face shield or goggles with clean water or alcohol to remove chemical residue.
4. Fully dry (air dry or use clean absorbent towels).
5. Remove gloves and perform hand hygiene.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/ppe-strategy/eye-protection.html>

I have read, understand and agree to adhere to the requirements outlined in this policy and procedure.

Administrator Signature: _____ Date: _____

Medical Director Signature: _____ Date: _____

Review Dates: _____

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