

Eye Protection FAQ's

Why did Advocate Aurora decide to add eye protection for patient encounters?

The CDC updated PPE guidelines to include the use of eye protection in addition to facemasks for health care workers in communities with moderate to sustained SARS-CoV-2 (COVID) transmission. Advocate Aurora implemented this recommendation for the safety and well-being of our team members. The use of eye protection with the universal face mask protects eyes, nose, and mouth from the patients' respiratory secretions and reduces the risk of exposure.

What type of eye protection is available at Advocate Aurora? Supply chain continues to monitor PPE resources and availability. Below are examples of eye protection however substitutions can occur.

Full Face Shield



Goggles



Eye Shields



Is eye protection requirement for all Advocate Aurora settings? This requirement is for all locations with patient facing encounters.

Do we have to wear eye protection all the time? The intention is for team members to wear eye protection during **patient facing** encounters-

When should I replace my eye protection? Reusable eye protection is replaced when damaged or broken.

Do I have to clean and disinfect eye protection after every patient encounter? No. **Wearing eye protection for extended periods when the eye protection and procedure mask or N95 is left in place for multiple patient encounters is preferred.**

When do I have to clean and disinfect eye protection? Clean and disinfect eye protection when known or suspected contamination occurs (examples: touched with contaminated glove or visibly soiled from splash or spray), after an aerosol generating procedure (AGP), when removing to take a break or eating, or at the end of a shift prior to storing.

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How do I clean and disinfect reusable eye protection? Don clean gloves, clean and disinfect the inside and outside surfaces of the eye protection. If the eye protection has foam or an elastic band, avoid using the disinfectant on those areas. Discard used disinfectant wipe or paper towel, remove gloves and perform hand hygiene.

What should I do with my eye protection when not wearing it? Disinfect prior to placing in designated storage area.

Are eyeglasses considered eye protection? Eyeglasses are not considered PPE. Eye protection can include goggles, face shield and eye shields.

Can side shields be added to glasses? No, the addition of side shields is not recommended, due to possible gaps which would not protect eyes from splashes or sprays.

Is the combined mask/shield reusable? Facemasks with the attached shield are limited and not preferred. If the team members use facemask/shield combo, then these would be discarded at the end of the shift or when the mask is soiled, wet or damaged.

If the front desk has plexiglass, do team members need to wear eye protection? Eye protection is not needed while front desk team member is behind the plexiglass. If the front desk team member has face to face contact with a patient (outside of the plexiglass), they must wear eye protection.

Can team members wear their own safety goggles provided full eye coverage is achieved? Yes, if the eye protection (goggles) cover the front and sides of the face and protects eyes from splashes and sprays.