

## INFECTIOUS DISEASE AND INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL COVID-19 COMMITTEE

**Bulletin #114c – COVID-19 – ID-IPC – Face Masks and Eye Protection (Red Phase) – Jan 28 2021**

### COVID-19 Infection Prevention & Control Guidance:

#### Update for the **Red** Phase on continuous use of medical grade face masks and eye protection for full shifts in health care settings during the COVID-19 pandemic

The ID/IPC COVID-19 Committee was asked to reconsider the recommendation for **the continuous use of medical grade face masks and eye protection** during the Red Level to include health care workers (HCWs) in all settings (as opposed to only clinical settings).

This directive is being revised to align with GNB Red Phase definition “COVID-19 is no longer controlled” with the aim to prevent transmission of COVID-19 between:

- HCW to patient;
- Patient to HCW; and
- HCW to HCW.

Based on local-area-color level, eye protection (goggles / face shield) will now be used continuously with a medical grade face mask as outlined below:

#### Yellow Phase

- The continuous use of eye protection is **optional** for HCWs working in clinical settings.

#### Orange Phase

- The continuous use of facial protection (medical grade face mask and goggles / face shield) is **mandatory** for all HCWs in high-risk clinical settings: COVID-19 units, ERs, ICUs, ORs and COVID-19 Assessments Centres.

- The continuous use of eye protection is **optional** for HCWs working in other clinical settings.

### **Red Phase**

- The continuous use of facial protection (medical grade face mask and goggles/face shield) is **mandatory** for all HCWs in all settings.

**The use of facial protection, together with diligent hand hygiene, are most critical for preventing transmission of respiratory infections.**

Details are highlighted in [Continuous Use of Medical Grade Face Masks and Eye Protection for Full Shifts in Healthcare Settings During COVID-19 Pandemic – All Phases](#) document.

Eye Protection Ordering Information and instructions on how to clean and disinfect goggles/face shield prior to re-use are included in the document: [Infection Prevention and Control Cleaning and Disinfection Instructions for Eye Protection and Ordering Information](#).

Please visit the IPC Resources page on [Skyline](#) for COVID-19 information.