

INFECTIOUS DISEASE AND INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL COVID-19 COMMITTEE

Special Bulletin – COVID-19 – ID-IPC – Revised Directive on Masks and Eye Protection – All Phases – Mar 9 2021

COVID-19 Infection Prevention & Control Guidance
REVISED Directive for the Continuous Use of Masks and Eye Protection for Full Shifts in Healthcare Settings During COVID-19 Pandemic - All Phases

The [IPC Guidance: Continuous Use of Medical Grade Face Masks and Eye Protection for Full Shifts in Healthcare Settings During COVID-19 Pandemic – All Phases](#) has been revised to reflect the following:

- The types of eye protection required in various clinical and non-clinical settings
- The requirement for continuous use of eye protection based on the local Area color phase to align with Vitalité.
- Specifications and process for Self Sourced Goggles/Safety Glasses.

A [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\)](#) document for eye protection during COVID-19 pandemic was developed to address inquiries that may arise as a result of the revisions made to IPC Guidance: Continuous Use of Medical Grade Face Masks and Eye Protection for Full Shifts in Healthcare Settings During COVID-19 Pandemic – All Phases.

An overview

Types of Eye Protection:

- Goggles provide the most reliable eye protection from splashes, sprays, respiratory droplets and aerosols and are recommended for use in high risk clinical settings.
- Face shields may be used as eye protection as an alternative to goggles.
- Face shields may be added to goggles for additional protection when there is a high risk of splash/spray i.e. high risk AGMP, such as intubation.
- Safety glasses may be worn as eye protection in non-high-risk clinical settings and non-clinical settings.
- When prescription safety glasses are worn in high risk areas a face shield must be worn as well.

Continuous Use of Medical Grade Face Masks and Eye Protection based on Color Phases:

A summary of Eye Protection Required During COVID-19 Pandemic is listed in Appendix A.

- No changes were made to Orange and Yellow Phases.
- **Red Phase- Clinical and Non-Clinical Settings**
 - All HCWs working in high-risk clinical settings (i.e. COVID-19 units, ERs, All ICUs, ORs, and COVID-19 Assessment Centres) will wear facial protection (medical grade face mask and eye protection (goggles/face shield)) continuously, at all times in all areas of their workplace when a physical barrier (i.e., plexiglass) is not in place to prevent transmission of droplets
 - All HCWs will wear facial protection (medical grade face mask and eye protection (goggles/face shield)) when providing care to suspect/confirmed COVID-19 patients.
 - All HCWs working in non-high-risk clinical settings will wear facial protection (medical grade face mask and eye protection (safety glasses)) continuously, at all times in all areas of their workplace when a physical barrier (i.e., plexiglass) is not in place to prevent transmission of droplets.
 - The continuous use of eye protection (safety glasses) is optional for HCWs working in non-clinical settings.
- **Facility Outbreak/Local Area Lockdown - Clinical and Non-Clinical Settings**
 - All HCWs working in high-risk clinical settings (i.e. COVID-19 units, ERs, All ICUs, ORs, and COVID-19 Assessment Centres) will wear facial protection medical grade face mask and eye protection (goggles/face shield) continuously, at all times in all areas of their workplace when a physical barrier (i.e., plexiglass) is not in place to prevent transmission of droplets
 - All HCWs will wear facial protection (medical grade face mask and eye protection (goggles/face shield)) when providing care to suspect/confirmed COVID-19 patients.
 - All HCWs working in non-high-risk clinical settings and non-clinical settings will wear facial protection (medical grade face mask and eye protection (safety glasses)) continuously, at all times in all areas of their workplace when a physical barrier (i.e., plexiglass) is not in place to prevent transmission of droplets.

Specifications and process for Self-Sourced Goggles/Safety Glasses.

- Horizon is responsible to ensure that any work carried out on their premises is done safely. Ultimately, if Employees/ Physicians are purchasing their own eye

protection, the employer is responsible to ensure that it meets the criteria under Occupational Health and Safety Legislation. Employees and Physicians have the responsibility to do likewise.

- Specifications for Self Sourced Goggles/Safety Glasses are listed under Appendix C.