



Topic: Personal Protective Equipment – Eye Protection

TOOLS & RESOURCES

Project Firstline Video: [Episode 9: What is PPE?](#)

Project Firstline Video: [Episode 10: Why is Eye Protection Recommended for COVID-19?](#)

Sequence for Donning and Doffing PPE:
<https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/npptl/pdfs/PPE-Sequence-508.pdf>

Personal Protective Equipment: PPE 101 The Basics of Standard Precautions:
<https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/pdf/strive/PPE101-508.pdf>

Chicago Department of Public Health:
<https://www.chicagohan.org/en/web/han/hai/pfl>



The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Project Firstline initiative aims to provide infection prevention and control training for frontline healthcare workers by supporting their efforts to understand and confidently apply the principles necessary to protect themselves, their facility, and their community from infectious disease threats.

Personal Protective Equipment – Eye Protection

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) refers to the equipment that you use to protect yourself, your patients, and your co-workers by keeping germs from spreading in the environment. PPE is used to:

- 1) Protect the wearer from dirty surfaces or equipment and to prevent exposure to germs from patients.
- 2) Keep the wearer from spreading germs to others, like patients and co-workers.

Eye protection is recommended because the eyes are one way that germs can enter the body. Germs can get into the nose and throat through the tear ducts causing infection or may infect the eye directly.

While eye protection is important, it should not get in the way and impede a healthcare provider's vision. If vision is blocked, you could injure yourself or someone near you.

Examples of Eye Protection

Situations that dictate the use of eye protection will be identified and communicated by your organization's infection prevention experts. Below are examples of eye protection that are used as PPE.

Goggles: Goggles are used to protect the healthcare worker's eyes. Goggles should be put on a healthcare worker's face and eyes first, and then adjusted to fit properly. Goggles should fit snugly to the face from the corners of the eye and across the brow. Goggles should fit over prescription glasses with minimal gaps.

Face Shields: Face shields are intended to protect the mucous membranes of the face, mouth, nose and eyes of healthcare workers. Face shields should be placed over a healthcare worker's face and then adjusted to fit snugly. Face shields provide additional protection to all areas of the face. Face shields should have crown and chin protection and wrap around the face to the ears to reduce the likelihood that a splash could go around the edge of the shield.

It is important to understand that regular eyeglasses and protective eyewear (safety glasses, trauma glasses) with gaps between the glasses and the face are not considered eye protection, as they do not protect the eyes from all splashes and sprays.

Please reach out to InfectionPrevention@team-iha.org if you have any questions or comments.