

## **PPE Optimization Strategies for Eye Protection**

Below are a series of strategies or options to optimize supplies of eye protection in healthcare settings when there is limited supply. The strategies assume healthcare personnel (HCP) are managing within the surge capacity framework as outlined by the CDC. It also assumes providers are operating outside the conventional capacity framework and are following strategies within either the contingency capacity or crisis capacity framework.

### Contingency Capacity Strategies:

**Selectively cancel elective and non-urgent procedures and appointments for which eye protection is typically used by HCP.**

**Shift eye protection supplies from disposable to re-usable devices (i.e., goggles and reusable face shields).**

- Consider preferential use of powered air purifying respirators (PAPRs) or full-face elastomeric respirators which have built-in eye protection.
- Ensure appropriate cleaning and disinfection between users if goggles or reusable face shields are used.

### **Implement extended use of eye protection.**

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.

- Eye protection should be removed and reprocessed if it becomes visibly soiled or difficult to see through.
  - If a disposable face shield is reprocessed, it should be dedicated to one HCP and reprocessed whenever it is visibly soiled or removed (e.g., when leaving the isolation area) prior to putting it back on. See protocol for removing and reprocessing eye protection below.
- Eye protection should be discarded if damaged (e.g., face shield can no longer fasten securely to the provider, if visibility is obscured and reprocessing does not restore visibility).
- HCP should take care not to touch their eye protection. If they touch or adjust their eye protection they must immediately perform hand hygiene.
- HCP should leave patient care area if they need to remove their eye protection. See protocol for removing and reprocessing eye protection below.

## Crisis Capacity Strategies

**Cancel all elective and non-urgent procedures and appointments for which eye protection is typically used by HCP.**

**Use eye protection devices beyond the manufacturer-designated shelf life during patient care activities.**

If there is no date available on the eye protection device label or packaging, facilities should contact the manufacturer. The user should visually inspect the product prior to use and, if there are concerns (such as degraded materials), discard the product.

**Prioritize eye protection for selected activities such as:**

- During care activities where splashes and sprays are anticipated, which typically includes aerosol generating procedures.
- During activities where prolonged face-to-face or close contact with a potentially infectious patient is unavoidable.

**Consider using safety glasses (e.g., trauma glasses) that have extensions to cover the side of the eyes.**

**Exclude HCP at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19 from contact with known or suspected COVID-19 patients.**

- During severe resource limitations, consider excluding HCP who may be at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19, such as those of older age, those with chronic medical conditions, or those who may be pregnant, from caring for patients with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 infection.

**Designate convalescent HCP for provision of care to known or suspected COVID-19 patients.**

- It may be possible to designate HCP who have clinically recovered from COVID-19 to preferentially provide care for additional patients with COVID-19. Individuals who have recovered from COVID-19 infection may have developed some protective immunity, but this has not yet been confirmed.

## Selected Options for Reprocessing Eye Protection

**Adhere to recommended manufacturer instructions for cleaning and disinfection.**

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

1. While wearing 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 cleaner wipe.
2. Carefully wipe the *outside* of the face shield or goggles using a 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 residue.
4. Fully dry (air dry or use clean absorbent towels).
5. Remove gloves and perform hand hygiene.

*CDC Guidelines as of March 29, 2020*