

## INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL PROCEDURE


**CATEGORY:** Corporate Clinical

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**TITLE:** **EYE PROTECTION AND MASKING DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

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### PURPOSE

To guide HSN health care workers (HCWs) in the mandatory use of eye protection and masks during the COVID-19 pandemic. A fluid-resistant mask worn in conjunction with eye protection is required to achieve full protection of the eyes, nose and mouth. The need for extended use and limited reuse will continue for the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Wearing eye protection together with a fluid-resistant mask has been implemented as a strategy to prevent the transmission of/exposure to unrecognized COVID-19 including while providing care to multiple **non-COVID-19** patients and non-isolation patients.

### PROCEDURE

#### Equipment: HSN Supplied and Issued

##### Eye Protection:

- Full face shield OR safety goggles to be worn at all times.
- Alternate: mask with integrated visor, eye visor

##### Mask: Fluid-resistant mask (Level 1)

##### Storage Container:

- Reusable plastic bag for eye protection (label with name of employee)
- Single use paper bag for mask (label with name of employee)

##### **Note:**

- HCWs may NOT wear their own masks or eye protection, this includes cloth masks, unless issued by HSN.
- Managers may NOT purchase eye protection from sources outside of HSN.

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**SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS**

- All workers at HSN including Staff/**Medical Staff**/Volunteers/Learners/Residents (HCWs) and contractors, are to wear a fluid-resistant mask and eye protection at all times, unless **alone** in a personal office or **while seated and two (2) meters from others to drink/eat in a designated break area**. This requirement includes:
  - HSN workplaces, property and parking lots, and HSN vehicles.
  - when walking **to/from** your car, walking **or sitting outside** on HSN property.
- Remember to maintain physical distancing of two (2) meters at all times including when walking to/from your work area.
- For all interactions with patients in isolation rooms: HCWs must follow PPE guidelines specific to the type of isolation precautions as indicated on the isolation sign.
- Point of care risk assessment (PCRA): HCWs must always complete a PCRA prior to each patient encounter.

Eye Protection:

- Prescription eye glasses are NOT sufficient for protection and therefore eye protection is required over prescription eye glasses.
- staff must clean and disinfect their eye protection between each use, when visibly soiled and at the end of the shift before storing.
- Eye protection must be inspected before each use and replaced if damaged.
- HCWs should always minimize the number of times eye protection is touched to reduce the risk of self-contamination.

Mask:

- Ensure the fluid resistant mask securely covers the nose and mouth.
- Do not touch fluid-resistant mask while wearing it, if touched perform hand hygiene immediately.
- Do not allow fluid-resistant mask to hang/dangle around the neck or on your head.
- Discard fluid-resistant mask when wet, soiled, damaged, and hard to breathe through or at the end of shift.
- When reusing fluid resistant mask, carefully remove and place in storage container, label with your name:
  - a) Clean single use paper bag: fold outer surfaces of mask together and place in paper bag. Paper bags are to be discarded after each use. **OR**
  - b) Clean container with lid: place in container with outer surface of mask facing bottom of container.

**NOTE:** If unable to fold or store mask without contaminating the mask discard the mask.

- Take extra care when removing the mask from the storage container to avoid contamination of the inner surface of the mask as the risk of self-contamination is higher during redonning.
- Fluid resistant mask should be inspected before and after each reuse
- Upon doffing/removal of mask perform hand hygiene

**Method**

- All HCWs have dedicated masks and eye protection provided to them by their manager.
- HCWs label their own designated eye protection.
- HCW are required to have disinfected eye protection ready for use at work.
- Hand hygiene is performed before and after donning and doffing masks and eye protection, and every time masks or eye protection is touched while in use.

Cleaning and Disinfecting Eye Protection:

- Refer to the **Cleaning and Disinfection of Eye Protection procedure**.

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Procedure: How to doff eye protection and level 1 fluid resistant mask for patient on Additional Precautions:

1. Doff eye protection, disinfect and store.
2. Doff fluid resistant mask and discard.
3. Perform hand hygiene.
4. Don appropriate PPE as per the type of isolation precautions
5. Upon exiting the room, having doffed all PPE, perform hand hygiene.
6. Don level 1 fluid resistant mask and eye protection.
7. Perform hand hygiene.

**EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

All staff who are required to wear PPE must be trained in the use, care, and limitations of PPE, including the proper sequence of donning and doffing PPE immediately upon hire and refresher as needed. All staff to complete the Safety Talk – Mask and Eye Protection During COVID-19 and refresher as required.

Training is conducted as a new hire orientation, and is mandatory to review content covered in IPAC SLP Four (4) Moments of Hand Hygiene & Routine Practices and Additional Precautions every 2 years. See the HUB for refresher of visual factsheets for “Putting on PPE” and “Taking off PPE”. Videos are also on the HUB.

Appendices for Masking guidance:

- Appendix A: How to properly wear a mask to avoid contamination
- Appendix B: How to properly wear a mask to avoid contamination – Do’s and Don’ts

Appendices for Eye Protection:**Definitions**

1. Eye Protection: Eye protection is intended to protect all areas around the eyes from splashes, sprays or respiratory droplets.
2. Extended use (of eye protection): The practice of wearing the same eye protection for repeated encounters with several different patients, without removing between encounters.
3. Health care worker (HCW): All people primarily engaged in actions with the primary intent of enhancing health. Examples are: Nursing and midwifery professionals, doctors, cleaners, other staff who work in health facilities, social workers, and community health workers, etc.
4. Limited re-use: The practice of using the same i.e. eye protection for multiple patient encounters and removing it (‘doffing’) between each encounter. For example removing the eye protection to put on the isolation PPE required before going in to a patients room, once care completed removing the dirty PPE and performing hand hygiene and reapplying the (level 1 mask and eye protection).
5. Masks for Source Control: wearing a fluid resistant mask to prevent transmission of unrecognized COVID-19 infection by covering the nose and mouth.
6. Masking for extended period: Wearing a fluid resistant mask by the HCW allows the wearer to deliver care for an extended period of time with multiple non-COVID-19 and non isolation patients.
7. Point of Care Risk Assessment (PCRA) assesses the task, the patient and the environment. A PCRA completed by the HCW before every patient interaction to determine whether there is a risk of contamination or exposure.

**References and Related Documents**

IPAC Routine Practices and Additional Precautions Standards

IPAC Point of Care Risk Assessment (PCRA) during COVID-19 Pandemic

IPAC Masking for All HSN Staff During the COVID-19 Pandemic Procedure

IPAC MEMO Cleaning and Disinfecting Wipes Update during COVID-19 Pandemic Nov 12, 2020

IPAC Cleaning and Disinfection for Eye Protection Procedure

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COVID-19 Directive #1 for Health Care Providers and Health Care Entities – Revised March 30, 2020 THIS DIRECTIVE REPLACES THE DIRECTIVE #1 ISSUED ON MARCH 12, 2020. Issued under Section 77.7 of the Health Protection and Promotion Act (HPPA), R.S.O. 1990, c. H.7 or most current.

COVID-19: provincewide shutdown, Ontario, Emergency Shut down

Ministry of Health COVID-19 Operational Requirements: Health Sector Restart Version 2 – June 15, 2020  
Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion (Public Health Ontario). IPAC recommendations for use of personal protective equipment for care of individuals with suspect or confirmed COVID-19. Toronto, ON: Queen's Printer for Ontario; 2020.

Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion, Provincial Infectious Diseases Advisory Committee. Routine Practices and Additional Precautions in All Health Care Settings. 3rd edition. Toronto, ON: Queen's Printer for Ontario; November 2012.

Ontario Ministry of Health. COVID-19 Operational Requirements: Health Sector Restart Version 2.0, June 15, 2020

Public Health Ontario, FOCUS ON Face Shields for Source Control of COVID-19 July 16, 2020

Management of Cases and Contacts of COVID-19 in Ontario May 6, 2021 (version 12.0)

Public Health Ontario, FOCUS ON Risk Assessment Approach for COVID-19 Contact Tracing, Sept 2020

Public Health Ontario. Universal Mask Use in Health Care, April 22, 2020

Strategies for Optimizing the Supply of Eye Protection, Eye Protection, Updated Dec. 22, 2020

Appendix A

## How to properly wear a mask to avoid contamination

## Comment porter correctement un masque pour éviter la contamination



Clean your hands before wearing a mask.

Nettoyez vos mains avant de porter un masque.



Ensure the proper side of the mask faces outward.

Assurez-vous que le bon côté du masque est tourné vers l'extérieur.



Locate the metallic strip & place it on the bridge of your nose.

Localisez la bande métallique et placez-la sur l'arête de votre nez.



Secure the strings over your head or behind your ears.

Fixez les cordes au-dessus de votre tête ou derrière vos oreilles.



Cover mouth & nose fully. Ensure there are no gaps.

Couvrir complètement la bouche et le nez. Assurez-vous qu'il n'y a pas de lacunes.



Press the metallic strip to fit the shape of your nose.

Appuyez sur la bande métallique pour qu'elle épouse la forme de votre nez.



Before removing, wash your hands again. Remove the mask from behind by holding the strings.

Avant de retirer, lavez-vous à nouveau les mains. Retirez le masque par derrière en tenant les ficelles.



Dispose of the mask in a closed bin without touching the front. Clean your hands again.

Jetez le masque dans un bac fermé sans toucher le devant. Nettoyez à nouveau vos mains.



Appendix B

## How to properly wear a mask to avoid contamination

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