



Guiding Principles to Prevent the Transmission of COVID-19

- Stay home when ill
- Work from home if possible
- Wash hands frequently with soap and water or sanitize using hand sanitizer that contains at least 70% alcohol
- Implement physical distancing of 2 metres (6 feet) between you and others to the greatest extent possible
- Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or sleeve
- Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth
- Wear a face covering in accordance with Fact Sheet “Face Coverings for Non-health Care settings”

Eye Protection– Requirements

Ontario Regulation 364/20 (Rules for Area in Stage 3, under Reopening Ontario (A Flexible Response to COVID-19) Act 2020) was amended (see Schedule 1, Section 2(7)) to require appropriate personal protective equipment that provides protection of any person’s eyes, nose and mouth if, in the course of providing services, the person: (i) is required to come within 2 metres of another person who is not wearing a mask or face covering in a manner that covers that person’s mouth, nose and chin during any period when that person is in an indoor area, and (ii) is not separated by Plexiglass or some other impermeable barrier from a person.

The requirement for eye protection complements mandatory face coverings (See Fact Sheet “Face Coverings for Non-Health Care settings: <https://vine.niagararegion.ca/emp-centre/COVID%20Resources%20for%20Employees/COVID-19%20Fact%20Sheet%20-%20Face%20Coverings%20for%20Non-Healthcare%20Settings.pdf>) and our existing practices of physical distancing and regular hand-washing in controlling the spread of COVID-19.

Eye Protection Use in Indoor Areas, or in a Vehicle:

In accordance with the Ontario Regulation 364/20 **any employee** who is:

- working or providing services indoors; or
- operating a work vehicle,

and must come within two (2) metres of another person (including a coworker, visitor and/or client) who is not wearing a mask or face covering, and is **not** separated by an impermeable barrier, **must**, in addition to a mask or face covering, **wear appropriate eye protection**.

Appropriate eye protection will be made available to employees where it is required. Employees are also permitted to provide their own appropriate eye protection.

Principles Regarding the Use of Eye Protection

- Eye protection functions as Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), protecting the wearer from exposure to respiratory droplets

What is Appropriate Eye Protection

- Appropriate eye protection includes safety glasses or goggles that fit securely around the eyes, or and a face shield that covers the front and sides of the face. This includes:
 - Safety glasses that have eye shields and encompass the eyes
 - Over glasses safety eyewear that fit over prescription eyewear and encompass the eyes
 - Safety goggles
 - Face shields (Note that wearing a face shield alone does **not** meet the face covering requirements of Ontario Regulation 364/20 Schedule 1, Section 2(4). A face covering is still required.)
- Prescription eye glasses are **not** acceptable by themselves as eye protection, but may be worn underneath a face shield or worn under “over glasses” eyewear
- Eye protection should **not** interfere with the proper use of a face covering or mask
- Eye protection should **not** interfere with vision
- Eye protection may be disposable, however if reused, must be cleaned and disinfected after each use.

Eye Protection for Non-Healthcare Settings

How to Properly Wear, Use, and Care for Eye Protection

Putting on (Donning) Eye Protection (Always avoid touching the front of the eye protection)

- Wash or sanitize hands before putting on eye protection
- Face covering or mask should already be donned appropriately (refer to [Face Coverings for Non-Healthcare Settings Fact Sheet](#))
- Grasp the side arms of the eye protection, or strap of the face shield, and place on face as required
- Ensure eye protection and your face covering or mask are compatible so there is no interference with the fit or proper seal
- Ensure eye protection fits securely and does **not** interfere with vision

Using Eye Protection

- Keep eye protection on the entire time it is required
- Do **not** put eye protection around the neck or up on the forehead
- Do **not** touch the front of eye protection. If you do touch the covering, wash or sanitize your hands immediately
- If eye protection becomes damaged, it will need to be replaced

Removing (Doffing) Eye Protection (Always avoid touching the front of the eye protection)

- Wash or sanitize your hands before removing eye protection
- Reach up behind or at the side of the head and grasp the side arms of the eye protection, or strap of the face shield, and pull forward

Cleaning and Storage

- Don new pair of exam gloves
- Ensure glasses, goggles or face shield is free from dirt and debris prior to disinfecting
- Clean the inside surface of eye protection with a hospital grade disinfectant wipe or as per manufacturer instructions
- Using a second wipe, clean the outside surface of the eye protection and allow surface to remain wet with disinfectant for appropriate contact time
- Place eye protection on a clean surface to allow it dry prior to next use
- When dry, store in clean labelled container (or a new paper bag) in a cool, dry place, avoiding extreme temperatures
- Remove gloves and perform hand hygiene
- Clean container each time after use with a hospital grade disinfectant wipe

Related Resources:

[Niagara Region Public Health – Prevent the Spread of COVID-19](#)

[Ontario Regulation 364/20](#)

[Public Health Agency of Canada – Putting on Mask and Eye Protection](#) (described video)

[Public Health Agency of Canada – Taking off Mask and Eye Protection](#) (described video)

[COVID-19 Fact Sheet – Face Coverings for Non-Healthcare Settings](#)

[Employee Q&A - COVID-19 \(Staff Resource Page on Vine\)](#)

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