

COVID-19 Update

Eye Protection **REQUIRED** for Droplet Precautions Effective September 11, 2020

September 10, 2020

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The use of personal protective equipment (PPE) is designed to provide a barrier between the worker and the exposure source. With COVID-19 and other viruses, transmission can occur when people are pre-symptomatic or asymptomatic through droplet spread.

Recently-published data suggests that people are most infectious about two days before the onset of coronavirus symptoms and estimates that 44 percent of new infections were a result of transmission from people who were not yet showing symptoms.

Therefore, eyes, nose and mouth need to be protected by wearing masks and eye protection.

Effective **September 11, 2020**, eye protection will be **REQUIRED** for **DROPLET PRECAUTIONS** in patient care areas at ECMC. **Eye protection is strongly encouraged for Standard Precautions.**

Infectious agents may be introduced to the eye either directly (e.g., body fluid splashes, respiratory droplets generated during coughing or suctioning) or indirectly by touching the eyes with contaminated fingers or other objects. Eye protection provides a barrier to infectious materials entering the eye and is often used in conjunction with other PPE such as gloves, gowns, masks or respirators.

To ensure staff remain as safe and healthy as possible, protective eye wear (such as goggles/glasses with solid side shields, mask with attached wrap-around face shield, or chin-length face shields) **must be worn with Droplet Precautions** to provide the best protection.

Providers and staff should clean and disinfect reusable eye protection after each use with a hospital-approved disinfectant.

See instructional video on the ECMC Intranet

-Donning & Doffing Procedures Video-

Prescription eye glasses are **not** considered protective eyewear and do not meet workplace health and safety regulations for eye protection. Anyone who needs assistance with obtaining eye protection should contact their manager.

Please note the Droplet Precautions sign that will be posted:

Droplet PRECAUTIONS

Visitors report to nurse before entering room

- **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**
 - Don required protective eyewear/goggles or face shield before entering room
 - Put on required mask before entering room
- **As per Standard Precautions:**
 - Hand hygiene upon entering and leaving room

* Dispose of personal protective equipment (PPE) upon exiting the room. During universal masking situations, mask can be maintained unless soiled; Goggles or face shield must be disinfected between rooms.