

Criteria for wearing eye protection

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Are my prescription eyeglasses considered eye protection?

A. No. Standard eyeglasses are an inadequate barrier, and a face shield or goggles covering the eyewear is required.

Q. Can I buy my own eye protection?

A. Yes. Staff may buy eye protection, but it must conform to ANSI Standard Z87.1. However, it is recommended that you use hospital PPE that is readily available for your protection.

Q. How are safety glasses different from prescription eyeglasses?

A. Safety glasses are eyewear which resemble glasses but provide peripheral eye protection, are impact and shatter resistant, and meet ANSI Standard Z87.1. Staff are welcome to purchase and wear their own eye protection, but it must conform to ANSI Standard Z87.1.

Q. Can I buy the clips for the side of my prescription glasses?

A. No. Although this can add side protection to personal eyewear, this method relies on prescription eyeglasses which are not validated as protective eyewear, unless you specifically ordered protective prescription eyewear that meet the ANSI Z87.1 standard. Normal prescription eyewear does not meet that standard.

Q. Can I still wear my contact lenses?

A. Yes. There is no evidence to suggest contact lens wearers are more at risk of acquiring COVID-19 than eyeglass wearers. Contact lens wearers should continue to practice hygiene habits. Eye protection should be worn per the hospital's PPE Guidelines.

Q. If I prefer a face shield, where do I get one?

A. Talk to your leader about where these can be obtained. (Follow the extended use/re-use guidelines.

Q. Do I have to wear them all the time, even at a workstation?

If you are entering a patient room or anticipate coming within close contact of a patient, then you should wear your eye protection.

Q. Do I wear my eye protection for COVID-19 negative patients?

A. Yes. You will wear your eye protection anytime you enter ANY patient room or are within close contact of ANY patient, regardless of COVID-19 status.