



FACE PROTECTION (EYES AND NOSE/MOUTH)

Correct use, disposal of masks, cleaning and storage of faceshields

Rationale for eye protection

There are receptor sites on the conjunctivae for SARS-CoV-2 which is why eye protection is important in healthcare where distancing can be difficult. A faceshield is worn with a mask in healthcare. Eye protection, as with masks is not 100% effective and other measures such as distancing, adequate air changes, reducing f2f time all reduce risk

SUGGESTED PROTOCOL FOR CLEANING REUSABLE FACESHIELD

1. When task is complete, remove gloves correctly (see video) and dispose. Perform hand hygiene (HH) (see video)
2. When moving to another patient, the faceshield does not need to be removed unless splashed / contaminated or the patient is a known or suspect positive case. You must change your mask when it becomes moist as it loses effectiveness – this is usually after 2 hours so your faceshield will also need to be removed. It is suggested to take a break 2 hourly in any case so rehydrate, use the toilet, eat/exercise in this time – a good habit to get into.
3. Consider where you will hang your faceshield to dry after cleaning and disinfection - a hook on your door? It will need to be fully washed at the end of session. Consider it for personal use and store dry in a snap lock bag.
4. To commence, remove gloves if worn and do hand hygiene now remove faceshield by the rear band
5. Take a detergent/disinfectant wipe and clean the inside surface. Take a fresh detergent/disinfectant wipe and apply to the outer surface and leave wet - hang to dry.
6. At the end of the session, clean and disinfect as above then place for washing. Wearing gloves and mask, wash the faceshield under warm soapy water, rubbing surfaces with gloved hands. Rinse under warm running water and dry with paper towel – store to keep clean. Empty and clean sink. Remove gloves, HH, remove mask, HH

From Sept10 version4 DHHS guidelines

Cleaning and Disinfection of reusable goggles and face shields

Each facility should develop a guideline to suit their specific service.

Following the health facilities doffing procedure, cleaning and disinfection of reusable eye protection should be as follows:

*Wipe the inside followed by the outside using a neutral detergent wipe**

*Wipe the outside of the face shield/goggles with a TGA registered hospital disinfectant wipe**

Allow sufficient contact time (according to the manufacturers specifications)

If there is a residue from the disinfectant then wipe with clean water

Allow to air dry or dry with an absorbent, lint free cloth

End of shift or during a break store safely and separately from other users.

**A two-in-one wipe may be used to replace step 1 & 2.*

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