EYE PROTECTION STRONGLY RECOMMENDED

Mandatory eye protection for direct patient care and in a patient care areas/units was recently relaxed when COVID cases were decreasing.

Given that COVID-19 cases are increasing again, we STRONGLY RECOMMEND that you wear eye protection when providing any direct patient care, regardless of the patient’s isolation status or your vaccination status.

Note: Wear your universal mask and remind patients/visitors to mask when healthcare workers are present regardless of your or the patient’s vaccination status. See this guidance: https://infectioncontrol.ucsfmedicalcenter.org/coronavirus/ppe

1. What is changing?
   a. Eye protection is strongly recommended when providing any direct patient care
   b. Eye protection is required when the potential for body fluid (or other potentially infectious material) may splash or spray

2. What has not changed?
   a. Personal eyeglasses are not considered protective
   b. Wear your universal mask at all times even if you are vaccinated
   c. Ask your patient and visitors/caretakers to mask when you enter the room if the patient is >2 years of age and there are no medical contraindications
   d. Clean your hands with soap and water or alcohol-based hand sanitizer after touching your PPE
   e. Clean frequently touched surfaces with hospital-provided sanitizing wipes

3. What units/locations does this include? This recommendation applies to all UCSF patient care locations

4. Why are we doing this?
   a. Eye protection reduces the risk of COVID-19 exposure when providing patient care
   b. The number of new COVID-19 cases is increasing in the Bay Area
   c. The highly transmissible Delta variant is the predominant circulating virus in the United States, including in California and the Bay Area
   d. Vaccination has been shown to be highly protective against severe illness and death from COVID-19, but breakthrough cases are occurring

5. How do I choose the appropriate eye protection?
   a. Patient care areas are stocked with different eye protection options
   b. A face shield is preferred over other types of eye protection, such as when caring for patients in Novel Respiratory Isolation, for newly admitted asymptomatic patients with a COVID test pending who are receiving AGPs, and when splash/splatter is anticipated.

6. Can I reuse my eye protection? Yes, you can clean, store and reuse your eye protection unless it becomes damaged.