

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