

**Ascension**

**To:** Ascension Wisconsin and Ascension Medical Group  
Wisconsin Leaders

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**cc** Lisa Benson, MD, Chief Medical Officer, Ascension  
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Elizabeth Lemons, Interim Chief Operating Officer,  
Ascension Wisconsin

**Date:** June 19, 2020

**Subject:** ACTION NEEDED: Ascension Wisconsin Universal Eye  
Protection for Patient-Facing Associates

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This communication is being shared today with leaders at Ascension Wisconsin and Ascension Medical Group Wisconsin and will be shared next week with all associates.

**Ascension Wisconsin is implementing universal eye protection (face shields, goggles) at our facilities in which patients are present.** This applies to all patient-facing associates working in acute and ambulatory care settings, including hospitals, Ascension Medical Group Wisconsin clinics, respiratory care sites, mobile testing sites, etc. The timeline for implementation will be determined by each site's local Incident Command/leadership.

As we continue to Power Up and expand our services, symptomatic and asymptomatic patients will present to our facilities. The face shield is the **recommended** eye protection, adding a level of protection from fluids to the procedure mask. Universal eye protection is an **added** level of protection for our associates. If associates want to provide their own PPE, it must be at the same level of protection as the Ascension Wisconsin PPE.

**Universal eye protection should be worn:**

- Any time when entering patient care rooms or in a setting with close patient contact, regardless of COVID status and even if wearing corrective lenses
- Shields should be worn perpendicular to the floor. To the extent possible, do not tilt the bottom away from the face or wear them at an angle away from the face

**Universal eye protection should be removed, disinfected with approved disinfectant and stored when:**

- Eating or drinking
- Working outside of patient care rooms or in an area with no patient care activities
- It is necessary to don a new face mask or an N95/CAPR/PAPR for isolation of PUI/COVID patient

If you have questions, please contact your local Infection Preventionist.

Thank you.