



Ascension

Ascension St. Francis Hospital Universal Eye Protection Implementation

Ascension Wisconsin is implementing **optional** universal eye protection (use of face shields) at our facilities in which patients are present for associates and providers who wish to utilize an additional layer of protection with their universal mask. Universal eye protection does not replace PPE requirements for COVID+ and COVID PUI patient populations. Associates interacting with COVID patients must continue to follow the appropriate PPE tiering criteria to ensure the highest level of protection.

At Ascension St. Francis hospital and ambulatory campuses, **optional** universal eye protection will be launched on **Monday June 29, 2020**.

Why are we Implementing Universal Eye Protection?

- Eye protection is recommended by The Joint Commission as an added layer of protection from fluids to the universal face mask but is NOT required.
- Ascension Wisconsin has ample inventory of eye protection which enables us to extend this opportunity now to all patient facing associates who wish to utilize an additional layer of protection with their universal mask.

How will Associates and Providers Access Face Shields for Universal Eye Protection?

Materials Distribution will build face shields onto the par walls within our clinical departments so that they are available when needed. When the par wall inventory is depleted for any reason, departments can call Materials Distribution - hours are listed below.

- Please call Materials Distribution Ext. 5290 Monday - Friday 5:30am – 5:00pm.
- After hours please contact the House Supervisor Ext. 3525 or your Manager.



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Can Face Shields be Reused?

Yes. All face shields can be wiped down and reused until the integrity and use of the face shield is compromised (unable to be cleaned, cracked or broken). DO NOT use bleach wipes, as bleach will cause the face shield to be cloudy.

Per the Ascension Wisconsin universal masking memo, the time when disinfecting should be done is when face shields are removed for eating or drinking, working outside of patient care rooms or in an area with no patient care activities, or if necessary to don a new face mask or N95/CAPR/PAPR for isolation of PUI/COVID patient.

How Should Associates and Providers Store their Assigned Face Shields?

Associates can store face shields in any way to keep them clean and not retain moisture. If stored in a plastic bag or container there must be an air vent to prevent further moisture build up.

Can Associates and Providers Take their Face Shield Out of the Hospital if they are Not Consistently Assigned at One Site?

Yes, it is considered your personal PPE. If you keep it in your vehicle, please keep it covered and disinfect it once you enter the hospital/unit.

Can Associates Wear Goggles instead of Face Shields?

Goggles are **NOT** recommended. The purpose of the face shield is to protect the eyes **and** mask. The shield should cover the mask for maximum protection.

Should Universal Eye protection be Worn in Patient Unit Hallways and Patient Waiting Rooms?

Similar to universal face masking it is acceptable to wear eye protection in patient unit hallways when traveling between patients.

If Associates are Sitting Behind Glass, like PSRs, Do they Still Need to Wear Face Shields?

Similar to universal face masking it is acceptable to wear eye protection for added protection.

If you have other questions or concerns? Please consult with your Dept Leader or Infection Prevention