

# TIP SHEET: EYE PROTECTION

## How to Safely Use, Reuse, and Extend its Use

**What is Reuse?** The repeated use of an item by the **same person** with **adequate decontamination** over a period of time.

**What is extended use?** Wearing the same personal protective equipment (PPE) for close contact encounters with several patients,

The CDC recommends reuse and extended use of disposable PPE during a pandemic, as long as there are proper disinfection practices between each use, thereby extending the life of the piece; however manufacturer's guideline should be observed above all else.

### HOW TO SAFELY REUSE FACE SHIELDS & GOGGLES:

1. Use one (1) pair of goggles **or** face shield per employee, for as long as the item is in good condition and it has not been exposed to droplet spray contamination.
2. Identify the piece assigned to you with your name. Use a 'sharpie' as labels can collect bacteria.
3. Maintain control of your goggles and/or face shield at all times.
4. Adhere to manufacturer's instructions for cleaning and disinfection after each use.
5. When manufacturer instructions for cleaning and disinfection are unavailable, such as for single use or disposable pieces:
  - a. Remove the goggles or face shield before decontaminating.
  - b. Don clean gloves.
  - c. Carefully wipe all parts of the piece using a clean cloth saturated with an EPA-registered hospital disinfectant solution or sanitizing wipe.
  - d. Use clean water or alcohol to remove any residue.
  - e. Fully dry (air dry or use clean absorbent towels).
  - f. Store in a clean, dry location so as to avoid contamination when not being used, such as a clean plastic bag.
  - g. Discard eye protection if damaged in any manner.
  - h. Remove gloves and perform hand hygiene.

**NOTE:** Personal eye glasses DO NOT provide adequate protection

### HOW TO SAFELY EXTEND THE USE OF EYE PROTECTION:

1. Eye protection should be removed and immediately disinfected if it becomes visibly soiled or difficult to see through.
2. Goggles and face shields should always be disinfected after each use.
3. Eye protection should be discarded if damaged (e.g., face shield can no longer fasten securely to the user, if visibility is obscured and cleaning does not restore visibility).
4. Do not touch eye protection while wearing it. If adjustment of the piece is needed, perform hand hygiene.
5. Leave the patient care area before removing eye protection.