

Disinfection of Single-Use Protective Eyewear and COVID-19: Interim Notice

March 31, 2020

Question: In the event of a shortage of protective eyewear, how can we disinfect this personal protective equipment safely?

Context

In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and a real or feared shortage of protective eyewear, given that there is no conclusive evidence providing a framework for the disinfection of single-use equipment, it is recommended, as a matter of priority, that you:

- implement a series of strategies to optimize access to protective eyewear in the healthcare establishment when the supply is limited;
- prioritize, throughout the establishment, the use of protective eyewear for certain patient care activities creating splashes or aerosols, or during activities where prolonged or close face-to-face contact (less than two metres) with a potentially infected patient is unavoidable;
- administer several types of care at one time to a patient around whom protective eyewear is required, in order to limit the number of entries into the room;
- minimize the number of healthcare workers allowed in the room of a patient around whom protective eyewear is required.

Notice concerning the disinfection of single-use protective eyewear

Depending on the type of protection used, in the context of the COVID-19 **pandemic** and a real or feared **shortage** of protective eyewear, follow the instructions below:

SINGLE-USE ONE-PIECE VISOR WITH SYNTHETIC FOAM PAD ON FOREHEAD / HEADBAND

Since most protective equipment cannot be disinfected, re-use is not recommended. In the event that it is impossible to follow this recommendation, re-use is allowed if the equipment is allocated to a single healthcare worker for a given work shift or more (depending on equipment inventory). If not used continuously, the protective equipment should be placed in a clean container identified with the worker's name, after disinfection, following the procedure below:

- Remove all protective equipment according to the known and established procedures. Protective eyewear must be removed safely. It must be handled using the side pieces, i.e. the temples or elastic straps, so not to touch the front of the glasses or visor. See the documentation available at ASSTSAS, <http://asstsas.qc.ca/sites/default/files/publications/documents/Affiches/a70-epi.pdf>, or ASPC <http://publications.gc.ca/site/fra/9.642347/publication.html>

- Disinfect all equipment (inside and outside) between each user (may be kept for administering care to several patients without being removed (if not dirty) when COVID-19 patients are grouped together) and immediately after removal, using a product approved for hospital use, with recognized efficacy (virucide for the coronavirus) and authorized (drug identification number (DIN)) by Health Canada (chlorine product or solution normally used in the establishment). Apply according to the manufacturer's recommendations. Wear gloves when disinfecting.
- The prescribed contact time must be respected (varies according to the product used; refer to the manufacturer's instructions).
- The equipment may be rinsed with tap water if visibility is compromised by the disinfectant product following appropriate disinfection procedures.
- When the integrity of the equipment is no longer certain, it must be discarded. New equipment must then be used.

N.B. – If dirty, wash with water and detergent (soap) before disinfecting.

CLIP-ON VISOR THAT ALLOWS FOR CHANGING SINGLE-USE VISORS OR GLASSES

Re-use is possible, and ideally the equipment is allocated to a single healthcare worker for a given shift or more (depending on equipment inventory). If not used continuously, place the protective equipment, after disinfection, in a clean container identified with the worker's name. The worker is responsible for disinfecting and verifying the integrity of his or her personal protective equipment (PPE).

If the equipment is not reserved for a specific worker and is placed in a container holding several visors that will be disinfected by another person, it is essential to ensure that all the protective equipment can be disinfected; otherwise, the equipment will have to be reserved for a specific worker.

- Remove all protective equipment according to the known and established procedures. Protective eyewear must be removed safely. It must be handled using the side pieces, i.e. the temples or elastic straps, so as not to touch the front of the eyewear or visor. Refer to the documentation available at ASSTSAS, <http://asstsas.qc.ca/sites/default/files/publications/documents/Affiches/a70-epi.pdf> or ASPC, <http://publications.gc.ca/site/fra/9.642347/publication.html>
- Disinfect all equipment (inside and outside) between each user (may be kept for administering care to several patients without being removed, provided it is not dirty, when COVID-19 patients are grouped together), and immediately after removal, using a product approved for hospital use, with recognized efficacy (virucide for the coronavirus) and authorized (drug identification number (DIN)) by Health Canada

(chlorine product or solution normally used in the establishment). Apply according to the manufacturer's recommendations. Wear gloves when disinfecting.

- The prescribed contact time must be respected (varies according to the product used; refer to the manufacturer's instructions).
- The equipment may be rinsed with tap water if visibility is compromised by the disinfectant product following appropriate disinfection procedures.
- When the integrity of the equipment is no longer certain, it must be discarded. New equipment must then be used.

N.B. – If dirty, wash with water and detergent (soap) before disinfecting.

REUSABLE PROTECTIVE EYEWEAR

Ideally, this equipment should be allocated to a specific worker. If not used continuously, it should be placed, after disinfection, in a clean container identified with the worker's name. The worker is responsible for disinfecting and verifying the integrity of his or her personal protective equipment (PPE).

If the equipment is not reserved for a specific worker and is placed in a container holding several visors that will be disinfected by another person, it is essential to ensure that all the protective equipment can be disinfected (e.g. eyeglasses with synthetic pads or cloth straps cannot be disinfected with a wipe); otherwise, the equipment will have to be reserved for a specific worker.

- Remove all protective equipment according to the known and established procedures. Protective eyewear must be removed safely. The equipment must be handled using the side pieces, i.e. the temples or elastic straps, so as not to touch the front of the eyewear or visor. Refer to the documentation available at ASSTSAS, <http://asstsas.qc.ca/sites/default/files/publications/documents/Affiches/a70-epi.pdf> or ASPC, <http://publications.gc.ca/site/fra/9.642347/publication.html>
- Disinfect all equipment (inside and outside) between each user (may be kept for administering care to several patients without being removed, provided it is not dirty, when COVID-19 patients are grouped together), and immediately after removal, using a product approved for hospital use, with recognized efficacy (virucide for the coronavirus) and authorized (drug identification number (DIN)) by Health Canada (chlorine product or solution normally used in the establishment). Apply according to the manufacturer's recommendations. Wear gloves when disinfecting. The prescribed contact time must be respected (varies according to the product used; refer to the manufacturer's instructions).

- The equipment may be rinsed with tap water if visibility is compromised by the disinfectant product following appropriate disinfection procedures.
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N.B. – If dirty, wash with water and detergent (soap) before disinfecting.

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