



Memorandum

To: All Staff
From: Stacy Welch, RN, CIC, Infection Prevention Director
CC: Executive Leadership Team
Date: June 29, 2020

Subject: Updated Infection Prevention CDC Recommendations – Eye Protection

On June 19th, the CDC updated the “Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Healthcare Personnel During the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic.” Specifically, the CDC added recommendations addressing “Universal use of PPE for HCP working in facilities located in communities with moderate to sustained COVID-19 transmission” in the FAQs.

GRHC facilities are located in communities with sustained COVID-19 transmission. Maricopa County and the State of Arizona is actively experiencing a surge of COVID-19 positive patients. As of today, June 29th, there have been 74,533 cases and 1,588 COVID-19 deaths in the state of Arizona and 578 cases and 3 deaths at GRHC.

HCP working in facilities located in **areas with moderate to substantial community transmission** are more likely to encounter asymptomatic patients with COVID-19. If COVID-19 is not suspected in a patient presenting for care (based on symptom and exposure history), HCP should follow Standard Precautions (and Transmission-Based Precautions if required based on the suspected diagnosis). **They should also:**

- **Wear eye protection in addition to their facemask to ensure the eyes, nose, and mouth are all protected from splashes and sprays of infectious materials from others.**
- N95 or higher respirator, instead of a facemask, for:
 - Aerosol-generating procedures
 - Collection of diagnostic respiratory secretions (e.g., nasopharyngeal or nasal swab) from a patient with possible COVID-19

Effective Monday, June 29th, all staff and providers working in high risk departments, providing direct patient care (within 6 feet) are required to wear eye protection (i.e., disposable face shield, safety glasses or goggles) for **all patient encounters** within a GRHC facility. Face shields, safety glasses and goggles should be reused per PPE Optimization policy.

Additionally, the CDC states “**Personal eyeglasses and contact lenses are NOT considered adequate eye protection.**” Departments should identify areas for staff to store face shields in between shifts. Some departments are using adhesive hooks to hang face shields and others are storing in paper bags, placed on shelves. It is the individual Department’s Director/Manager’s responsibility to develop a process that complies with this and works for their department and work flow.



Memorandum

High Risk Departments

- ED
- PCD
- Medical Imaging
- Inpatient
- Dialysis
- TCH
- Podiatry – during procedures
- Dental
- Public Health
- EMS
- Laboratory
- Women’s Health – during procedures
- Optometry
- DRS – Medical
- RTH

Other High Risk Departments or Positions

- Patient Registration
- Targeted Testing
- Employee Health
- Medical Transportation
- EVS
- Patient and Employee Screening Stations
- Physical Therapy
- Security