

This document was also approved by CCOC.

**Overview:**

SARS-Cov-2 also referred to as COVID-19, is a novel respiratory virus that is expected to transmit through droplets. CDC recommends regular use of PPE to prevent transmission from asymptomatic and pre-symptomatic patients. This procedure outlines broad use of eye protection among caregivers in both inpatient, ED, and outpatient settings to further protect healthcare workers (HCW). The use of face shields can further protect a surgical mask or N95 respirator. The use of broad eye protection exceeds current CDC guidelines however UMMHC believes that this will help to protect caregivers.

**Procedure:**

**Regardless of COVID status (known positive, known negative, unknown COVID status), HCW’s in a patient facing role should use eye protection in addition to a surgical mask or N95 respirator for ALL patient interactions.**

Eye protection may consist of reusable full face shields or goggles/eye covering (please refer to reuse and cleaning protocols [LINK](#)). Caregivers can continue using eye protection between patient encounters throughout the shift unless it becomes visibly soiled or damaged. Each time the caregiver doffs the eye protection it should be cleaned. Face shields are preferred for patient scenarios where particularly close or prolonged contact may occur. At the end of the shift, the cleaned eye protection should be stored in a labeled plastic bag labeled with the caregiver’s name until the next shift.

**Recommended eye protection:**

Goggles/eye covering	Full face shield
	
Front desk staff	Nurses, providers, PCA’s, techs, case managers
Dietary	Environmental services
Registration	Respiratory therapy, PT, OT, SLP
Pharmacy (Ambulatory)	Radiology
Facilities	Phlebotomy
	Pharmacy (Inpatient)