

June 15, 2022

To: All Operations, Education and Community Paramedic Staff

From: Jennifer Shield
A/Deputy Chief, Program Development & Service Quality

Re: **COVID-19: Update on Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) – Eye Protection - revised**

With the lifting of most provincial mask requirements on June 11, 2022, the Chief Medical Officer of Health (CMOH) has revoked all remaining directives, including Directive #4. The ministry has released a new document titled [COVID-19 Guidance: Personal Protective Equipment \(PPE\) for Health Care Workers and Health Care Entities](#) to provide updated guidance on the required PPE for the care of patients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19. A summary of the document is below.

Point of Care Risk Assessment (PCRA)

The PCRA must be completed by Paramedics before every patient interaction and task to determine whether there is a risk to the Paramedic of being exposed to an infection, such as COVID-19. The PCRA should also include the probability of aerosol generating medical procedures (AGMPs) being required.

Minimum Required PPE (passed PCRA)

A fit-tested, seal-checked N95 respirator or equivalent (APR) mask must be worn at all times when providing patient care and/or in patient care areas.

Required PPE for Patients with Confirmed or Suspected COVID-19 (failed PCRA) or when AGMPs are anticipated / required

Paramedics are to wear a fit-tested, seal-checked N95 respirator, eye protection (goggles, face shield, or safety glasses with side protection) when:

- Providing direct care to or interacting with a patient with a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19, or
- AGMPs are anticipated or required.

**** Effective immediately, safety glasses with side protection are permitted for use in Operations****

Note: Patients may fail the PCRA for reasons other than COVID-19 (e.g., monkey pox, TB, MRSA, etc.). Paramedics should don additional items of PPE (e.g., gowns, hoods, booties) as required.

Patients who pass the PCRA must be reverse isolated with a surgical mask as long as it is tolerated.

Remember that vaccination - with a booster dose - remains your best protection from serious illness.

Thank you for all that you continue to do!

Sincerely,

(Original signed by)
Jennifer Shield

c.: P. Raftis, Deputy Chiefs, Multimedia