

# COVID-19 UPDATE

## Keeping You Safe



Thunder Bay Regional  
Health Sciences  
Centre

To: All Hospital and Health Research Institute Staff  
From: Dr. Stewart Kennedy, COVID-19 Incident Manager  
Date: June 1, 2020  
**RE: Mandatory Eye Protection**

---

The health and safety of all staff, professional staff, patients and the community is our utmost priority. To prevent the spread of infection, **eye protection (goggles or face shield) is now mandatory for all staff who have contact with patients when unable to maintain two meters of physical distance.**

Eye Protection will be issued to staff in the same manner as procedure masks. That is, supplies will be provided as appropriate by your primary manager and will be ordered and delivered via Stores.

Staff are reminded to complete a point of care assessment prior to every patient interaction. For further information and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Guidelines, please see your manager and policy IPC-2-16 - Management of Novel Respiratory Infections.

As part of our Hospital's ongoing efforts to conserve PPE, and in accordance with the recommendations of Ontario Health, eye protection will be cleaned/reprocessed as per the following guidelines.

High Risk Areas (ED, ICU and 3A COVID Unit) and Areas of Unknown Risk (Renal Dialysis, Cancer Centre, Labour & Delivery, Diagnostic Imaging, and Outpatient Clinics):

- Eye protection is assigned to a staff person for the shift;
- Eye protection is cleaned by the user as per standards if removed;
- Eye protection can be stored on a paper towel or in a paper bag between uses;
- At end of shift eye protection is sent to MDRD for reprocessing.

All Other Clinical Areas:

- Eye protection is assigned to a staff person for their consecutive shifts;
- Eye protection is cleaned by the user as per standards if removed;
- Eye protection can be stored on a paper towel (short term) or in a paper bag (between shifts) between uses;
- At end of consecutive shifts eye protection is sent to MDRD for reprocessing. i.e. If working Monday to Friday, eye protection would be cleaned and stored on unit between shifts as per instructions and send to MDRD on Friday.

# COVID-19 UPDATE

## Keeping You Safe



Thunder Bay Regional  
Health Sciences  
Centre

Once you have finished using the goggles, please place them inside the designated bins in your dirty utility rooms or designated locations on your unit. Stores will manage the replacement and pick up of goggles on your unit. Please contact Jennifer Svane or Phil Thompson with any questions.

Note: Our current face shields cannot be reprocessed in MDRD due to the foam at the top of the shield. Please wipe face shields down between patients and dispose of at the end of your shift.

**Please see the attached document for more information on how to properly care for your eye protection.**

For more information, please contact your supervisor.

All Hospital COVID-19 updates are available on the iNtranet at <https://comms.tbrhsc.net/covid-19-information/>.