

Under the Ministry of Ontario [COVID-19 Response Framework: Keeping Ontario Safe and Open](#), eye protection has been added as an additional method of personal protective equipment in workplaces (in addition to a mask), during instances where patrons without face coverings are within 2 m of workers. An example of a setting where this occurs: **Restaurants or Bars**: when servers are within 2 m of patrons who have removed their masks to eat or drink.

Types of Approved Eye Protection	Considerations in selection
<p>Goggles</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Goggles provide the most reliable eye protection from splashes, sprays, and respiratory droplets with the snug fit around the eyes. Goggles can be re-used by the SAME user if they are cleaned/disinfected after each use or until they become cracked or visibility is compromised. The characteristics of the goggles that make them the most reliable protection for the wearer can cause discomfort when wearing them for extend periods of time.
<p>Face Shield</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The face shield must cover the <u>front and sides</u> of the face to reduce the possibility of splash, spray, or respiratory droplets from going around the edges of the shield. A face shield can be re-used by the SAME user if it is cleaned/disinfected after each use or until it becomes cracked or visibility is compromised. Workers should label their face shield, and store it in a plastic or paper bag after it is properly cleaned and disinfect it between uses.
<p>Safety Glasses</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safety glasses may be used but they do not provide the same level of protection from splashes, sprays, and respiratory droplets as goggles or face shields. Safety glasses can be re-used by the SAME user if they are cleaned/disinfected after each use or until they become cracked or visibility is compromised. If a worker chooses to wear them, make sure that they fit snugly with no gaps between the glasses and their face.

* Please note: Prescription eyeglasses are **NOT** accepted as a form of eye protection as they may not fully cover the eye area and do not provide coverage from the side. If prescription eyeglasses are worn, another type of eye protection must be worn over the eyeglasses.

Additional Guidance for the Use of Protective Eyewear

- Make sure that the eye protection being worn properly fits and does not interfere with the proper fit of worker's mask.
- Remove the eye protection by grasping the side arms and pulling the eye protection forward without touching the front of the eyewear, then preform proper hand hygiene.
- All eye protection should be properly cleaned and disinfected between uses.

- Discard eye protection if damaged, difficult to see through, or if parts of the protection becomes visibly soiled or contaminated.

How to Clean and Disinfect Protective Eyewear

If manufacturing instructions for cleaning and disinfecting the eye protection are unavailable, consider the following¹:

1. Perform proper hand hygiene; carefully wipe the inside, followed by the outside of the face shield or goggles using a clean cloth saturated with neutral detergent solution or cleaner wipe.
2. Carefully wipe the outside of the protective eyewear with a healthcare grade disinfecting wipe.
3. Wipe the outside with clean water or alcohol to remove residue.
4. Allow to fully dry by air or use a clean absorbent towels.
5. Perform proper hand hygiene.

¹ [CDC- Strategies for Optimizing the Supply of Eye Protection](#)