



## HOMES AND SENIORS SERVICES

### **POLICY & PROCEDURE NUMBER: 2.21**

**DEPARTMENT:** *Infection Control*

**SUBJECT:** *Face Shields/Protective Eyewear,  
Masks, Respirators*

**APPROVAL DATE:** April 2004

**REVISION DATE:** April 2007

**REVISION DATE:** March 2016

**REVIEW DATE:** March 2017; November 2018

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### **PURPOSE:**

To prevent the spread of airborne microorganisms between staff members and residents, and to protect both when in close contact during high risk activities for transmission and/or splashes.

### **Masks**

- A mask is used by a health care provider (HCP), in addition to eye protection, to protect the mucous membranes of the nose and mouth when it is anticipated that a procedure or care activity is likely to generate splashes or sprays of blood, body fluids, secretions or excretions or within 2 meters of a coughing resident.
- A mask should be placed on a coughing resident when outside his/her room, to limit dissemination of infectious respiratory secretions.
- A mask should be worn for wound irrigation procedures if there is any risk of sprays or splashes.
- Mask selection is based on a risk assessment that includes: type of procedure/care activity; length of procedure/care activity; and likelihood of contact with droplets/aerosols generated by the procedure of interaction.
- Criteria for selecting masks include: mask should securely cover the nose and mouth; mask should be substantial enough to prevent droplet penetration

### **N95 Respirators**

- An N95 respirator is used to prevent inhalation of small particles that may contain infectious agents transmitted via the airborne route.
- Provides protection from small particle aerosols
- Better face seal prevents leakage around mask
- Requires fit-testing, training and seal-checking prior to use. Fit testing must be updated at least every two years. Or as indicated by changes in the staff member's facial structure (e.g. gaining/losing weight, significant dental work).

### **PROCEDURE: Appropriate Mask Use**

- Perform hand hygiene



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- Select a mask appropriate to the activity
- Mask should securely cover the nose and mouth
- Place mask over nose and under chin
- Secure ties/loops or straps
- Mould metal piece to your nose bridge
- For respirators, perform a seal-check
- Change mask if it becomes wet
- Do not touch mask while wearing it
- Remove mask correctly immediately after completion of task and discard into an appropriate waste receptacle
- Do not allow mask to hang/dangle around the neck
- Perform hand hygiene after removing the mask
- Do not re-use disposable masks

### **Eye Protection**

- Eye protection is used in addition to a mask to protect the mucous membrane of the eyes.
- Eye protection should be used whenever there is a potential for splashes or sprays to the eyes; or within 2 metres of a coughing resident.
- Eye protection should also be worn for wound irrigation procedures if there is any risk of sprays or splashes.
- Prescription eye glasses are NOT acceptable as eye protection; they may be worn underneath face shields and some types of protective eyewear.
- Eye protection includes: safety glasses, safety goggles, face shields, visors attached to masks
- Eye protection may be disposable or, if reusable, should be cleaned prior to re-use.
- Eye protection should be comfortable, not interfere with visual acuity and fit securely.
- Eye protection must provide a barrier to splashes from the side.
- Criteria for selection of eye protection depends on:
  - The type of activity and risk of exposure;
  - Other PPE used;
  - Personal vision needs;
  - The circumstance of exposure (e.g. droplet exposure vs. sprays/splashes of fluid).



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**PROCEDURE:** Appropriate Eye Protection Use

- Perform hand hygiene
- Put on gown and mask
- Put on appropriate eye protection and adjust to fit
- Face shield should fit over brow
- To remove: remove gloves, remove gown, perform hand hygiene
- Remove eye protection – arms of goggles and headband of face shields are considered to be “clean” and may be touched with the hands
- The front of goggles/face shield is considered to be contaminated
- Remove eye protection by handling ear loops, sides or back only
- Discard into waste receptacle or if reusable, clean goggles using disinfectant wipes
- Personally owned eyewear may be cleaned by the individual after each use

References:

Provincial Infectious Diseases Advisory Committee (PIDAC) Routine Practices and Additional Precautions in All Health Care Settings, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition, Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, November 2012