

PEMBROKE REGIONAL HOSPITAL

MEMO

TO: All Staff and Physicians

FROM: Infection Prevention and Control and
Occupational Health and Safety

DATE: December 22nd, 2020

SUBJECT: PPE and Universal Eye Protection



Recent guidance from Public Health Ontario reinforces that ‘covering the mouth, nose and mucous membranes is the critical PPE factor’ in minimizing exposure risk. Proper wearing of PPE not only protects from patients and visitors but from co-workers as well. Anecdotally, healthcare worker exposures have been deemed “high risk” based solely on the absence of appropriate eye protection during direct patient care

While physical barriers (such as Plexiglas) do serve a purpose in some instances or institutions, they can also present some challenges and may lead to a false sense of protection. At this time, physical barriers will not be routinely installed as an alternative option for universal eye protection. Instead, personal protective equipment is available to all staff, including PRH approved eye protection (face shield, safety goggles or safety glasses). With universal eye protection protocols now in place, areas where physical barriers were installed during the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic may be re-evaluated.

Staff and Physicians are reminded to follow PRH protocols for universal masking and eye protection. Any staff, physicians and volunteers spending time in a clinical area must wear appropriate PPE including eye protection. Please remember that nursing stations are an extension of the clinical area and universal eye protection must be worn by staff at all times.

Breakrooms, rest periods and small areas continue to be a concern for exposure as PPE tends not to be maintained. If you are not wearing PPE, six feet physical distancing must always be maintained between individuals.

Please direct any questions to OccHealth@pemreghos.org .

Thank you