



To: Catholic Health Medical Staff

From: Kevin Shiley, MD, Medical Director Infection Prevention & Control

Date: November 30, 2020

RE: Universal Eye Protection

Due to the high rate of COVID-19 in Western New York, Infection Control and the New York State Department of Health are advising all caregivers who come into contact with patients wear eye protection, regardless of their COVID-19 testing status.

PPE during routine care of patients who do **NOT** meet confirmed COVID-19 status or Person Under Investigation (PUI) criteria should include:

- Mask
- Eye protection (or face shield)
- Other PPE as determined by the clinical situation (based on Standard Precautions and CH Transmission-Based Isolation Policy. For example, gown and gloves for *C. difficile*).

Staff working outside of a red zone may keep their eye protection for personal re-use, but are responsible for cleaning with an EPA-registered disinfectant after removal. Oxivir wipes, which are found throughout acute care sites, can be used for this purpose.

PPE for care of a confirmed COVID-19 patient or suspected PUI should include:

- Gown
- Gloves
- N95 or equivalent respirator
- Eye protection (or face shield)

Eye protection used in a designated red zone should not be shared between staff and should be cleaned through the facility's cleaning and re-use program.

If you have any further questions, please contact your facility Infection Prevention & Control Department.