



Oregon

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NF-21-036 – Provider Alert

Date: July 16, 2021

To: All Nursing Facilities

From: Aging and People with Disabilities
ODHS Safety, Oversight and Quality Unit (SOQ)

Subject: **Universal Eye Protection Requirements**



Effective immediately, universal eye protection (the proactive use of face shields or goggles), will not be required for long-term care facilities in counties with **minimal community spread** of COVID-19, as identified in Oregon Health Authority's [COVID-19 community spread map](#). Indicators used to produce the community spread map are also available at this site.

Be advised that other forms of personal protective equipment including face masks is still required at all times, as is adherence to the [core principles of COVID-19 infection control](#). Eye protection is a required element of personal protective equipment when caring for a resident with suspected or confirmed COVID-19.

In accordance with current recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the universal use of eye protection while in resident care areas will remain mandatory under the following conditions:

- Facility is located in a county with moderate or higher **community spread** of COVID-19;
<https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/oregon.health.authority.covid.19/viz/OregonCOVID-19PublicHealthIndicators/Risk>, or
- Facility currently has an Executive Order for a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19.

Please note: This Provider Alert supersedes all previous Provider Alerts regarding eye protection. Percentage of staff or residents vaccinated is NO LONGER a factor in determining whether or not eye protection is required.

References

- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/infection-control-recommendations.html>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/long-term-care.html#healthcare-personnel>

If you have questions, please contact Nursing Facilities Licensing Team:
NF.licensing@dhsosha.state.or.us

Oregon Department of Human Services website: www.oregon.gov/DHS/

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ePOC Practice Tip:

Facility Administration - ASPEN Web: e POC (electronic Plan of Correction) is the centralized worksite for completing all steps in CMS & State survey POC processing including:

- Receiving and reviewing Statements of Deficiencies (SODs),
- Formulating POCs,
- Submitting POCs and if desired,
- Attaching supporting Informal Dispute Resolution request & documents.

Register and maintain an active ePOC account to efficiently access your surveys, and at no cost to your facility. ePOC registration passwords are effective for 90 days and must be renewed timely to maintain an active ePOC account. As an active ePOC user, you will receive notifications of pending password expiration with renewal instructions. It may also be advantageous to have multiple ePOC registrants for your facility to ensure an active ePOC account is maintained at all times. For ePOC assistance and/or questions contact QTSO (<https://www.qtso.com>).