

# Criteria for Choosing Adequate Eye Protection

Duke Health recommends the use of eye protection for all staff having direct interaction with patients and visitors. Direct interaction is defined as face-to-face interaction such as entering a patient's care environment (e.g. exam room, hospital room, bay, etc.) or coming within 6 feet for any duration of time. Face shields are the preferred eye protection as they provide full coverage of the eyes and protect the underlying face mask from potential contamination.

We recognize that some team members are seeking alternatives to face shields. Supply chain issues have made purchase of large quantities of safety goggles challenging. As such, this resource is meant to provide guidance for selecting alternate adequate eye protection to the widely available Duke-approved face shields.

The primary requirement for adequate eye protection is that they meet ANSI Z87.1 American National Standard for Occupational and Educational Personal Eye and Face Protection Devices. This standard includes the following criteria which should be considered when selecting personal eye protection. Make sure to consider these when selecting your eye protection.

- Meets the ANSI Z87.1 standard
- Does NOT contain natural rubber latex
- Provides adequate coverage (fits face and wraps around for side protection)
- Fits comfortably
- Anti-fog
- Scratch-resistant
- Fits over prescription eyeglasses, for those who wear glasses



## Adequate Eye Protection

Face Shields



Safety Goggles/  
Glasses

(those that **adequately protect** from splashes/droplet spray)



## Inadequate Eye Protection

Prescription  
Eyeglasses



Sunglasses



Safety Glasses

(those that **do not adequately protect** from splashes/droplet spray due to open top/bottom/sides)

