

# COVID-19

## Face Shield Quick Guide

**Face shields** provide barrier protection to the face and mucous membranes (eyes, nose, and mouth) by protecting the wearer from large droplets generated by coughs and sneezes.

### How to Wear a Face Shield

Ensure that the face shield:

- Covers forehead, extends below the chin, and wraps around the side of the face.
- Is not shared with others.
- Is worn concurrently with a face covering. Faculty members, teachers, or lecturers may wear face shields with a cloth drape attached to the bottom of the shield and tucked into the shirt, instead of face coverings when lecturing, provided that such employees remain ten (10) feet from the nearest student or other employee.

Remember:

- Face shields are not meant to function as primary respiratory protection. Face shields do not block fine aerosols which may be exhaled or inhaled.
- If a face shield is needed in a laboratory or workshop setting<sup>1</sup>, it is supplemental PPE to be worn over required safety glasses or goggles.



### Face Shield Re-Use

A face shield may be used multiple days or weeks depending on their condition, cleaning, and storage. Replace face shields when they become damaged/deteriorated.

To re-use a face shield:

1. Clean the inner and outer surfaces of the face shield visor with a water-based, non-abrasive household cleaner (e.g., Windex).<sup>2</sup>
2. Wipe off excess moisture with a clean absorbent towel. Ensure the face shield is fully dry before storing.
3. Label the face shield with the user's name and store in a secure area where it cannot be used by others.
4. To prevent cross-contamination, avoid contact with PPE belonging to others.

### Who Should Wear a Face Shield?

Campus areas where it may be appropriate to wear a face shield include some research laboratories and workshops, clinics, hospitals, dining facilities, workers at customer check-in stations, and instructors in lecture halls.

To request a risk assessment for your area or if you have questions, contact EH&S at [EHS@usc.edu](mailto:EHS@usc.edu) or (323) 442-2200.

### Resources

NCBI

Face shields for infection control: A review - <http://tiny.cc/ncbi-faceShield-review>

Efficacy of Face Shields Against Cough Aerosol Droplets from a Cough Simulator - <http://tiny.cc/ncbi-faceShield-effcy>

CDC

Operational Considerations for Personal Protective Equipment - <http://tiny.cc/cdc-PPE-consider>

<sup>1</sup> Non-ANSI face shields are acceptable for COVID protection; **ANSI-Z87.1 rated face shields** are required for projectile, chemical splash, and UV hazard protection.

<sup>2</sup> If the face shield is used in high-risk environments such as healthcare facilities OR if the face shield is reassigned, follow CDC procedures for cleaning and disinfecting: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/ppe-strategy/eye-protection.html>.