

## Senior Manager's Comment

With the COVID-19 variants still a significant concern in the third wave, eye protection is now required along with appropriate masking when workers must work within 2 metres of one another without an impermeable barrier between them. This change applies to both indoor and outdoor construction work.

If workers must work within 2 metres of one another, a risk assessment must be performed to determine the appropriate level of eye protection and masking. Remember, source control masking may not be appropriate if a worker is performing a task that requires additional respiratory protection, i.e. cutting concrete, in this case, PPE would be required. This also applies to the appropriate level of eye protection. If eye protection is worn solely for the purpose of preventing the spread of COVID-19, it must provide good protection against droplet exposure. Prescription eyeglasses may be appropriate if they are tight fitting, provide good coverage to the eyes and also have side shields. Prescription eyewear without these features would not be considered appropriate in the circumstances, but could be supplemented with a face shield or other eye protection that provides wrap around protection for the eyes. If another hazard to the eyes is identified beyond COVID-19, the appropriate level of eye protection must be used to protect against the hazard while still providing protection against COVID-19

In construction, we are still seeing a significant level of non-compliance with masking. Workers are still working or taking breaks within 2 metres of one another without any form of source control or PPE masking. For masking, bandannas, neck gaiters or other single ply materials are not appropriate for use as source control or PPE. Source control masking should be at least 2 layers of tightly woven fabric, must cover your nose, mouth and chin, and be securely fastened around the back of your head or around your ears. Masking as PPE must be rated for the respiratory hazard that you are protecting against.

# Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development

Occupational Health and Safety Branch

Construction Health and Safety Program

Ontario 

Please ensure your workers are aware of the requirements for both masking and eye protection. It is everyone's job to stop the spread of this virus.

Sincerely, Brian Barron

Senior Manager

Construction Health and Safety Program

Occupational Health and Safety Branch

Ontario Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development