

## Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Requirements for Those Coming Within 2 Metres of a Person not Wearing a Mask or Face Covering

### Why are coaches and trainers required to wear PPE now?

One thing that is true about public health and this pandemic as a whole is that we are constantly learning new information, and subsequently changing our approach to match new findings. Plainly, this is best practice and is the most cautious recommendation to provide the highest level of protection to those who are most at-risk (i.e. those providing service in close proximity to others who are not wearing a mask or face covering). It is a provincial legislation change that we are simply communicating, and will be required to enforce. Furthermore, this is also a requirement under Occupational Health and Safety legislation.

O. Reg. 364/20, under the Reopening Ontario (A Flexible Response to COVID-19) Act, 2020; Schedule 1, Section 2, Sub-section 7 [states](#):

(7) A person shall wear appropriate personal protective equipment that provides protection of the person's eyes, nose and mouth if, in the course of providing services, the person,

(a) is required to come within 2 metres of another person who is not wearing a mask or face covering in a manner that covers that person's mouth, nose and chin during any period when that person is in an indoor area; and

(b) is not separated by plexiglass or some other impermeable barrier from a person described in clause (a).

A coach or trainer within 2 metres of an athlete, who would be exempt from wearing a mask or face covering during an athletic activity, would be required under this section to wear PPE.

### What is PPE, and how is it different from a non-medical mask (NMM) or face covering?

[Health Canada](#) notes that "personal protective equipment are items worn to provide a barrier to help prevent potential exposure to infectious disease." (PPE such as medical grade masks and approved eye protection, helps protect the person wearing it from exposure to hazards, like COVID-19).

[Public Health Ontario](#) notes that "a non-medical mask or face covering is intended to protect others from your infectious droplets." Plainly, a NMM is source protection; 'my masks protects you from me, and me from you'.

The [Canadian Centre for Occupational Health](#) answers many of your questions about PPE and COVID-19, as does [the CDC](#).

### What about other sectors?

This legislation applies to anyone who comes within 2 metres of someone who is not wearing a mask or face covering. This requirement has been a part of the COVID-19 response since September at schools, requiring educators and administrators to don PPE in a similar fashion (medical mask and eye protection). Other sectors who are influenced by this are those in the food service industry and personal service settings.

### Do I need to wear PPE when I am on the ice with my team?

Generally speaking, no. Provided that coaches and instructors are able to maintain 2m distance from others, PPE would not be required. If a coach or instructor, especially of younger teams or learn to skate programs, is coming into close and frequent contact with skaters who are not wearing a mask or face covering (i.e. teaching them how to skate, or helping kids up from the ice after a fall), then PPE would be required on the ice.

### Do referees need to wear PPE when officiating games?

Generally speaking, no. Provided that referees are able to maintain 2 metres distance from others, PPE would not be required. (Given the 'no face offs rule' this year, there should be limited times that a referee would need to get close to an athlete who is not wearing a mask or face covering).

## What counts as eye protection?

“A person shall wear appropriate [personal protective equipment](#) that provides protection of the person’s eyes, nose and mouth”.

- Prescription glasses do NOT count as eye protection
- Prescription glasses with affixed, after market ‘side shields’, do not count as eye protection
- Face shields, worn in conjunction with a medical mask would be sufficient
- Safety glasses, worn in conjunction with a medical mask would be sufficient
- Safety goggles, worn in conjunction with a medical mask would be sufficient
- Half visors, affixed to a hockey helmet, do not count as PPE

Many hardware stores, big box stores, and industrial supply stores carry the required products. There are [many local retailers](#) for these products.

## My safety glasses are fogging up at the arena, do we still need to wear PPE?

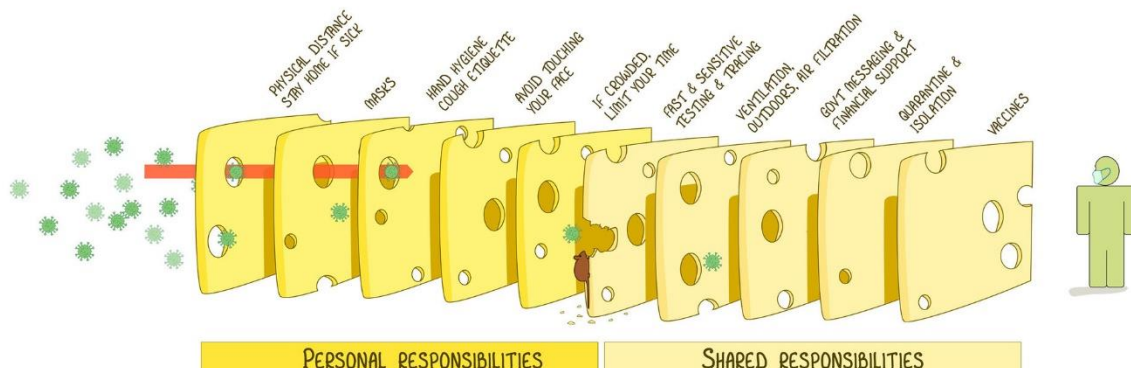
Yes. Hopefully some of the products listed above will work to prevent fogging. Failing that, our colleagues in Thunder Bay have [compiled a list of tips and tricks](#) to prevent glasses from fogging – if there is another Health Unit in the province that knows how to adapt to cold weather – it’s them!

## This seems like overkill.

We know a lot is being asked of everyone to help turn the corner on this pandemic. We know wearing PPE can be uncomfortable. We also know that there isn’t a silver bullet solution to keeping those that live, learn, work and play in Peterborough safe. However, PPE that covers the mouth, nose, chin, and eyes *is* part of the solution that will decrease the risk of transmission in our community.

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