



## FAQ: Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Requirements for Those Coming Within 2m of Unmasked Persons

### 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 masked). 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.

### What about other sectors?

This legislation applies to anyone who is going to have frequent contact within 2m of an unmasked person. 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.

### 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 unmasked skaters (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 2m 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 unmasked athlete).

### 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
- 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 [complied 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.

