

## **EYE PROTECTION POLICY**

### **POLICY**

It is the policy of the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) to minimize the risk of eye injuries to personnel. To accomplish this, appropriate eye protection shall be worn wherever there is a risk of injury or exposure to the eyes.

### **PROCEDURE**

1. In order to adequately protect a person's eyes or to limit a person's exposure to hazardous/infectious agents which may enter via the eyes, the appropriate type of eye protection must be selected for the potential hazard

#### A. Blood and other body fluids

Eye protection is an essential part of the center for disease control recommendations for the prevention of H-IV transmission in health care settings.

Eye protection shall be worn during procedures that are likely to generate droplets of blood or other body fluids. Approved types of eye protection for blood and body fluids include the following: goggles, face shields, glasses with side shields and a mask with protective shields.

#### B. Chemicals, toxic materials, carcinogens

Eye protection shall be worn in all areas when working with or around hazardous chemicals. This includes working with machinery or laboratory apparatus which utilizes hazardous chemicals. Eye protection is essential for personnel wearing contact lenses because contact lenses pull hazardous chemicals under lens causing a more severe injury. Suitable eye protection must protect against chemical hazards.

#### C. Mechanical hazards

Eye protection shall be worn by all personnel operating machinery which presents a hazard from flying particles such as drills, power saws, lathes, etc. Impact resistant eye protection with side shields shall be selected.

#### D. Welding

Eye protection shall be worn by all personnel who are welding or working near a welding operation. Welding presents a hazard from sparks, intense rays, and molten metal. Suitable eye protection must protect against these hazards.

## E. Lasers

Protective eye wear which meets the ANSI Z136.1, 1986 American national standard for the safe use of lasers in health care facilities, shall be used in conjunction with lasers. Laser eye wear must be approved by the safety director prior to use.

2. The doctor, professor and/or director/chair of the section or program is responsible for assuring trainee's use of eye protection
3. Department supervisors are responsible for having appropriate eye protection available so employees, students and volunteers required to utilize them will have them available. They are responsible for verifying that employees, students, and volunteers utilize such equipment.
4. Additional reference material is available from the safety office. Questions about eye protection should be referred to the Safety Officer.