

RECOMMENDATION FOR SHARING, CLEANING, AND DISINFECTING SAFETY GOOGLES AND GLASSES

American Chemical Society

The Emerging Issues Subcommittee of the American Chemical Society's Committee on Chemical Safety (CCS) was tasked to recommend safe practices for sharing, cleaning, and disinfecting safety goggles and glasses.

INTRODUCTION

Although sharing personal protective equipment is not a preferred practice, we recognize that chemical safety goggles and glasses are often shared in elementary and secondary schools, at informal educational venues, at out-of-school enrichment programs, at science festivals, and in the hands-on science events organized by ACS members.¹ When safety goggles and glasses are shared, teachers and parents of children participating in school and other chemistry-related activities should take steps to clean the goggles and glasses to prevent disease transmission or exposure to the next wearer.

RECOMMENDATION

When possible, every person should be assigned their own safety goggles or glasses, to ensure appropriate fit and prevent exposure to the next wearer. When safety goggles or glasses are used best safety practices for collection, cleaning and disinfecting should be followed:

Collection.

Used safety glasses and goggles should be collected in a separate, labeled container.

Cleaning and Disinfection.

- Cleaning and disinfection should be done in an area free from contaminants.
- Gloves must be worn while performing cleaning and disinfection. The shared eyewear (including the straps) should be thoroughly washed in warm water and rinsed with fresh water.
- The goggles or glasses should then be cleaned with a quaternary ammonium-based disinfectant (such as CaviWipes, Clorox Disinfecting Wipes, or Lysol Disinfecting Wipes) according to the manufacturer's directions.
- The goggles or glasses must be given time to dry before the next use.

REFERENCE

U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. Eye Safety Infection Control Q & A. July 29, 2013. www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/eye/eye-infectious.html (accessed 2020-12-07).

1. Please note that in most cases safety goggles are preferable to safety glasses for eye protection. For more information, see pp. 108–9 of *Prudent Practices in the Laboratory: Handling and Management of Chemical Hazards* (National Research Council, 2011).