

GIFO recommendations for cleaning and disinfecting eyewear (optical and sun) in the Covid-19 context

There are **2 possibilities to remove the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus present on the surface of an object:**

- by **cleaning**
- by **disinfection**

Warning :

- **check for specific recommendations from the manufacturer** referring to the use of soap, alcohol or detergent.
- **Not all products meant to disinfect a surface are suited to disinfect eyewear without a risk of degradation.** The cleaning and disinfection recommendations below guarantee in the vast majority of cases the absence of degradation of the eyewear and are based on experience and scientific data available to date.
- There is **no need to combine the different methods below**. Either method is necessary and sufficient to remove any coronavirus present on the eyewear.
- Several disinfection cycles on the same glasses over a short period (more than 5 times a day) can damage the aesthetic appearance of the frame (discoloration, loss of sparkle, whitening of the plastic parts, etc.). **In the case of multiple cleanings per day, the method of cleaning with soap should be favoured.**
- After several cleaning or disinfection cycles, the hinges of the frame may require lubrication.
- Other solutions are being tested in the laboratory on a wide range of frames.

1. Method n°1: **cleaning with soap**

Unless specifically recommended by the manufacturer (**see instructions for use**), the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus can be removed from all optical frames or sunglasses by washing with liquid hand soap.

Procedure:

1. Place the eyewear under a trickle of tap water to wet its surface.
2. Squirt a little bit of liquid soap in your hands, rub your hands together to lather the soap, and clean all parts of the frame with it. The time required to wash the frame is 30 seconds. NB: do not take too much soap, it will reduce its effectiveness of eliminating the coronavirus.
3. Rinse the eyewear with tap water, making sure to have removed all traces of soap on both the frame and the hands.
4. Then wipe your hands with a disposable tissue first, then wipe the frame dry with a disposable (non-woven paper) tissue.

2.

Method n°2: **disinfection**

Two alternatives are possible for disinfection.

1. **Preferred disinfection method: isopropyl alcohol at 70 ° by volume**

Unless the manufacturer contraindicates the application of alcohol on the frame (**see instructions for use**), isopropyl alcohol at 70 ° can be used in a solution, in wipes or as a spray. It is widely used in the medical field as an antiseptic and disinfectant.

Procedure with a spray:

1. After washing your hands with liquid soap or disinfecting them with a hydro-alcoholic gel, spray a solution of isopropyl alcohol at 70 ° on all the surfaces of the frame.
2. Let the excess alcohol evaporate or wipe the frame with a disposable tissue (non-woven).

It is also possible to use other forms:

- In solution: impregnate the disposable hand towel (non-woven paper) with 70% isopropyl alcohol solution.

- Wipes impregnated with isopropyl alcohol at 70 °, provided that they are **fragrance- and colour-free** and that the disinfection time recommended by the manufacturer of the wipe is respected.

NB: Isopropyl alcohol is used in certain cleaning products for eyewear in the form of wipes or spray bottles.

2. Disinfection method using cleaning wipes and virucides conform to standard EN 14476

Unless the manufacturer contraindicates (**see instructions for use**) the use of detergent on the eyewear, wipes or cleaning and virucidal solutions in accordance with standard EN 14476 (or NF EN 14476) **without bleach, colour or fragrance** may be used, provided **the concentration of the disinfectant is not more than 0.5%**.

Procedure for the use of disinfectant wipes:

1. Select cleaning and virucidal wipes in accordance with standard EN 14476 (or NF EN 14476) without bleach, colour or fragrance.
2. Apply the wipe to all surfaces of the frame during the disinfection time indicated on the product packaging. It is the time it takes to eliminate the virus.
3. Wipe if necessary with a disposable (non-woven) tissue.

A variant of this method consists in impregnating (non-woven) tissues with a disinfectant and virucidal solution in accordance with standard EN 14476 (or NF EN 14476) without bleach, colour or fragrance.

Many commercial wipes comply with this standard: just check the packaging.

Regarding eyewear **cases**, quarantining them for the survival time of the virus is the simplest solution. For materials that can handle it, disinfection with wipes as indicated above is possible if the deadlines require it.