

# Pembroke Regional Hospital Lifts Mandatory Masking In Non-Clinical Areas

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**May 23, 2023**

PEMBROKE - In alignment with our regional partners, and with many hospitals across Ontario, the Pembroke Regional Hospital is taking another step towards the gradual and safe removal of some pandemic restrictions.

Effective today, May 23<sup>rd</sup>, masks are recommended but are no longer mandatory in non-clinical public spaces such as hallways, elevators, stairwells, the cafeteria, the Sunshine Gift Shop and the Mural Café, as well as common areas that are located outdoors. This change applies to staff, physicians, patients and visitors.

While masking in these areas is no longer mandatory, masks will remain easily accessible for anyone who wishes to wear one.

Masking remains mandatory in all clinical areas and waiting areas / waiting rooms at PRH. This means that anyone entering these spaces must put on a medical grade mask at the point of entry, and wear it at all times while in those locations.

All patients, who are able, must wear a mask in waiting areas / waiting rooms, attending outpatient appointments and as indicated on the clinical unit.

“Today marks an exciting step in our pandemic recovery journey, while continuing to protect the health and safety of our patients,” said PRH President and CEO Sabine Mersmann.

“We appreciate that the last three years have been challenging and we want to thank everyone for their patience, understanding and cooperation as we navigated the various restrictions that had to be put in place. While we will continue to monitor and adjust our policies as appropriate and in line with public health recommendations, it’s great to be in a position where we can give people the opportunity to stop doing something,” Mrs. Mersmann said.

As a reminder, everyone is asked to stay home if they are experiencing symptoms of illness, unless they need to receive care.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:**  
**Carolyn Levesque, Public Affairs and Communication Coordinator**  
**(613) 732-3675, extension 6165 / [carolyn.levesque@prh.email](mailto:carolyn.levesque@prh.email)**