

PEMBROKE REGIONAL HOSPITAL

MEMO

TO: All Staff and Physicians

FROM: Infection Prevention and Control and Occupational Health and Safety

DATE: March 23, 2024

SUBJECT: Influenza Outbreak- Medical Unit

We are currently experiencing an increase in influenza activity on our medical unit. While official outbreak declaration has not been provided by Renfrew County District Health Unit (RCDHU), we anticipate that this will happen first thing on Monday. Outbreak management strategies must be implemented now to prevent further transmission of influenza on this unit and protect the health and safety of our patients and staff.

In accordance with PRH Policy, additional safety measures must be implemented for unimmunized health care workers. The following guidelines apply to all staff (including support services) who are working on the medical unit and have not received their annual influenza vaccine this season:

- Additional Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) must be worn continuously on the medical unit. This includes eye protection at all times and strict adherence to universal masking.

In order to prevent transmission of Influenza, please be mindful of the following safety measures:

- Perform Hand hygiene regularly and in compliance with the 4 moments (before patient/ patient environment contact, before aseptic procedure, after body fluid exposure risk, and after patient/ patient environment contact);

- Ensure shared equipment is thoroughly cleaned and disinfected between patients;
- Any patient who develops new respiratory symptoms must be placed on Droplet + Contact precautions, and the physician must be notified;
- Influenza cases must be restricted to their room during the infectious period (ie. while isolated on Droplet + Contact Precautions);
- All unvaccinated patients admitted to the medical unit (including new admissions) should be considered for and if appropriate, offered antiviral treatment and influenza vaccination by the most responsible physician.

At this time, there are no visitor restrictions. However, all visitors to the medical unit must be aware that the unit is currently experiencing outbreak activity. All visitors must comply with masking requirements at all times and any additional personal protective equipment that is required based on the posted signage at the entrance to the patient's room.

Any unvaccinated staff member or physician working on the medical unit who wishes to receive the influenza vaccine should contact the clinical resource nurse at ext 6820.

Please remain vigilant with universal masking requirements and additional personal protective requirement as indicated by the posted signage to help prevent the spread of infections at PRH.

Additional updates will be provided early next week after consultation with RCDHU.