

Pembroke Regional Hospital

MEMO

To: All Staff and Physicians
From: Infection Prevention and Control & Occupational Health and Safety
Date: Tuesday January 30th, 2024
Subject: COVID-19 Outbreak Declared – Medical Unit

Today, the Pembroke Regional Hospital, in collaboration with the Renfrew County and District Health Unit, declared a COVID-19 outbreak on the Medical Unit.

Staff and physicians are reminded about the importance of universal PPE adherence, handwashing, physical distancing and enhanced cleaning of shared equipment/ spaces.

While there are no additional restrictions on visitation to the affected unit at this time, visitors must be notified that the unit is currently experiencing an outbreak of COVID-19 and must be compliant with masking and other PPE as indicated by additional precaution signage.

Because of the outbreak, all staff and physicians working on the Medical Unit must follow universal masking (medical/ procedure mask) and eye protection for all patient interactions. Masks must be worn at all times in clinical areas. N95 fit-tested and seal checked respirators are required for all interactions with patients who are suspect or confirmed COVID-19 and receiving an aerosol-generating medical procedure (AGMP). As always, staff and physicians must complete a point of care risk assessment and select additional PPE as required.

All patients admitted to the Medical Unit during the time of the outbreak must be placed on Droplet + Contact precautions and receive admission testing for COVID-19.

With universal masking a requirement, we believe there should be minimal risk to staff and physicians. As per Public Health guidelines, only interactions with the patient within 2 meters for a cumulative period of 15 minutes over 24 hours without appropriate PPE are considered high risk. If you feel that you have had an unprotected high-risk contact, please contact the Occupational Health Team (ext 8200) to discuss your situation.

We will be providing additional updates on the situation as required.