

## Pembroke Regional Hospital

# MEMO

**To:** All Staff and Physicians  
**From:** Infection Prevention and Control and Occupational Health and Safety  
**Date:** Monday January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
**Subject:** COVID-19 Outbreak Declared – Inpatient Rehabilitation

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

As a result of the outbreak, all staff and physicians working on the Inpatient Rehab Unit must follow universal masking (medical/procedure mask) and eye protection for all patient interactions. Masks must continue to 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 are reminded to complete a point-of-care risk assessment and select additional PPE as required.

All patients admitted to the Inpatient Rehab 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 metres 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.