

Pembroke Regional Hospital

MEMO

To: All Staff and Physicians
From: Infection Prevention and Control & Occupational Health and Safety
Date: Wednesday, December 13th, 2023
Subject: Updates to PPE Requirements for COVID-19

Effective immediately and in alignment with a regional approach, PRH will be implementing changes to the required level of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for COVID-19.

What's Changing:

- Suspect and confirmed COVID-19 patients will now require **Droplet + Contact Precautions** rather than Droplet, Contact + N95 Precautions. This includes eye protection, gown, gloves and a **medical/ surgical mask**.
- N95 respirators will no longer be required for routine care of patients who are suspect or confirmed COVID-19.

Whats Not Changing:

- Fit-tested and seal checked N95 respirators are still required for aerosol generating medical procedures (AGMPs) performed on suspect/confirmed COVID-19 patients.
- Staff and physicians must perform a point of care risk assessment prior to each patient interaction and don the PPE appropriate for the situation.
- N95 respirators are readily available for any staff or physician who chooses to wear one or as indicated by your risk assessment.

The IPAC team will be rounding each unit today to update the posted additional precaution signage and kardex for these patients.