

Pembroke Regional Hospital

MEMO

To: All Staff and Physicians
From: Infection Prevention and Control & Occupational Health and Safety
Date: Friday August 4th, 2023
Subject: Change to Masking Requirements

As we continue on the path to COVID-19 recovery, PRH is regularly reassessing and adjusting pandemic protocols. This is a natural part of our organization's stabilization and the discovery of our "new normal".

As a next step, PRH will be making further changes to the masking requirements for our patients, visitors and health care workers. This change aligns with the masking requirements at other hospitals within our region.

What will not change:

In the Emergency Department (including Zone B), PRH will maintain universal masking for staff at point of care, visitors and patients (who are able) for the immediate future. This is because the Emergency Department has the highest risk for exposure to a viral infection not yet diagnosed.

PRH will also maintain universal masking requirements for staff, visitors and patients (who are able) within the Systemic Therapy/Medical Daycare unit.

What is changing:

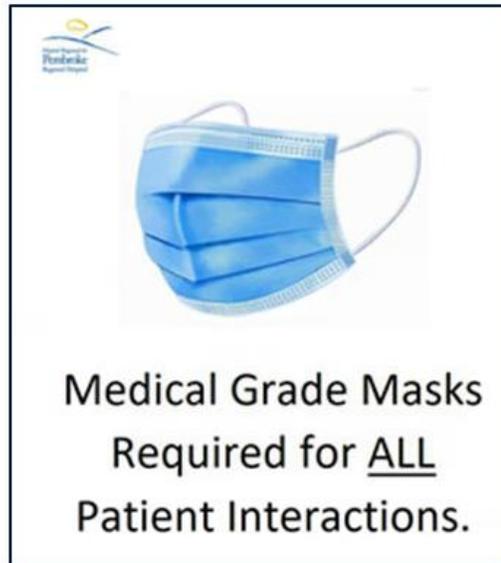
Starting Tuesday, August 8th, 2023, masks will no longer be required in clinical or public areas outside of the Emergency Department and Systemic Therapy/Medical Daycare unit, unless specifically required for infection control reasons or if the patient requests it.

5 Moments of Masking:

More specifically, the new PRH masking policy will be to follow these "5 Moments of Masking":

1. If a patient asks you to mask.
2. If your point-of-care risk assessment (PCRA) suggests you should be wearing a mask to protect your mucous membranes from splash or spray of blood or body fluids, or to protect a vulnerable patient from your respiratory secretions.
3. If there is signage, such as a droplet/contact precaution sign that indicates masks are required to enter the patient care space.
4. If a unit is on outbreak, requiring all patient care to be delivered wearing a mask.
5. If you are on Work Self Isolation.

Patients who have requested HCWs to wear a mask during care should have the following signage posted at their bed space:



Moving Forward:

While COVID-19 is no longer considered a pandemic threat, it remains a circulating respiratory virus of concern. As a result, the masking requirements will more than likely change again as we navigate the upcoming respiratory illness season. We will continue to monitor the situation closely and make adjustments as needed.