



PEMBROKE REGIONAL HOSPITAL

MEMO

TO: All Staff and Physicians

FROM: Infection Prevention and Control and Occupational Health and Safety

DATE: April 14th, 2023

SUBJECT: Updates to Pandemic Response Measures

In order to ensure alignment with regional hospitals, PRH will be implementing the following updates to pandemic response measures effective immediately.

Physical Distancing and Masking:

All reference to 3 feet/ 6 feet or 1 metre / 2 metre physical distancing requirement has been lifted.

In non-clinical departments/ areas, physical distancing is no longer required however, encouraged where possible. Masking in office spaces, meeting rooms and administrative areas is no longer required but masks will remain available for anyone choosing to wear one.

Universal masking in all other areas (including nursing stations) remains a requirement for all staff and physicians at this time.

Universal masking for visitors and essential caregivers remains a requirement.

Universal masking for patients (who are able) remains a requirement.

All on site educational activities, meetings and conferences can resume with no capacity limits. In break spaces/ employee lounges and the cafeteria, capacity limits have been lifted but physical distancing should be maintained to the extent possible when masks are removed.

All previous on-site patient events, activities and education can safely resume with no capacity limits (including communal dining for patients). Universal masking remains a requirement for all patients, except when eating or drinking.

Visitor Policy:

PRH has resumed our pre-pandemic visitor policy. Under some circumstances, visitor restrictions may be required (i.e., outbreaks).

Management of COVID-Exposed and Positive Healthcare Workers:

In alignment with a regional approach, PRH will no longer be performing PCR testing for symptomatic healthcare workers (HCW) or requiring rapid testing. Instead, we have shifted to a symptom based clearance approach for return to work.

Staff testing (PCR/ RAT) related to COVID-19 may be considered for outbreaks or under certain circumstances.

HCW's who are feeling unwell may return to work with:

- Symptom improvement and fever free for 24 hours in respiratory symptoms
- Symptom improvement and fever free for 48 hours in new undiagnosed gastrointestinal symptoms

HCW's returning to work after feeling unwell are expected to complete work self isolation for 10 days after symptom onset. This means that the HCW must:

- Wear a surgical/ procedure or N95 mask at all times unless eating or drinking in a designated break area
- Take meal breaks alone

HCW's who are feeling unwell should follow pre-pandemic protocol for calling in sick for work. The Occupational Health and Safety department can be consulted during regular hours of operation (Monday- Friday 0800-1400). If you have questions or concerns please call extension 8200, leave a message and the team will return your call when able.

PRH will continue to monitor pandemic characteristics and regional approaches and additional changes or reactivation of pandemic protocols will be implemented as indicated.