

Pembroke Regional Hospital

MEMO

To: All Staff and Physicians
From: IPAC and Occupational Health
Date: September 12th, 2022
Subject: COVID-19 Outbreak Declared – 2nd floor Medical

Today, the Pembroke Regional Hospital, in collaboration with the Renfrew County and District Health Unit, declared a COVID-19 outbreak on the 2nd floor medical unit.

Currently, there are 4 positive COVID-19 cases associated with the outbreak on 2nd medical among the patient population.

As a result of the outbreak, we have instated additional restrictions on visitation for the 2nd medical floor. Restrictions include:

- General visitors will not be permitted during the outbreaks
- One Essential Caregiver may be designated per patient

Please refer to the COVID-19 Caregiver and Visitor Policy for additional information about visitation of patients who are COVID positive. All essential caregivers visiting the Outbreak Unit must be instructed on PPE requirements and use and monitored for compliance.

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

As a result of the outbreak, all staff and physicians working on the 2nd floor Medical Unit must follow universal masking with a fit tested and seal checked N95 respirator and eye protection at all times. While on the unit, transient staff who do not have direct patient/ visitor interaction are not required to wear an N95 respirator for universal masking but must continue to wear a surgical/ procedure mask and eye protection at all times. As always, staff and physicians are reminded to complete a point of care risk assessment and select the PPE appropriate for the task and situation.

With universal masking and eye protection 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.

IPAC and OHS reminders for all staff and physicians working in clinical areas (including outpatient settings):

1. PRH approved eye protection is required at all times in clinical areas

2. Medical masks must be worn at all times in clinical areas. Masks must only be removed when staff members are on break (eating or drinking) in a designated break area. Physical distancing must be adhered to when masks are removed. As previously stated, staff and physicians working on an outbreak unit must wear a fit-tested and seal checked N95 respirator for universal masking.
3. Any patients participating in group activities must adhere to masking at all times. Patients who are ambulating/ moving outside of their designated bed space must be reminded to wear a mask (for patients who are able).
4. Shared equipment must be disinfected after use/ between patients.