

# MEMO

**To: All Staff and Physicians**

**From: Infection Prevention and Control and Occupational Health**

**Date: September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022**

**Subject: Isolation Rules for COVID-19**

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The Ontario Government has recently announced that the 5-day isolation period for individuals with COVID-19 has been dropped. This updated guidance is intended for the general public and does not apply to individuals working or residing in the highest risk settings, including Hospitals.

While we anticipate that further guidance may be released for highest risk settings, Hospitals are currently advised to continue to follow established workplace guidance for return to work.

Until further direction is received provincially or regionally, PRH will continue to adhere to the following isolation protocols as identified in the MOH Case and Contact Management Document (August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022):

COVID-19 Positive Individual	Isolation Period
Patient is the case with severe illness (requiring ICU level care)	At least 20 days after the date of specimen collection or symptom onset and until symptoms have been improving for 24 hours (48 hours for GI symptoms)
Patient is the case- hospitalized	At least 10 days after the specimen collection or symptom onset date and until symptoms have been improving for 24 hours (48 hours for GI symptoms) and no fever present
Healthcare Worker is the case	Earliest return to work is day 6 after symptom onset or positive test result and symptoms have been improving for 24 hours (48 hours for GI symptoms) and no fever is present

*Note: Duration of isolation period may be modified based on IPAC or OHS direction.*

Staff and physicians who develop new onset signs or symptoms of COVID-19 or who test positive by home rapid test must continue to contact the Occupational Health and Safety Department/ Delegate at extension 8200 for direction on testing and return to work.