

Pembroke Regional Hospital

MEMO

To: All Staff and Physicians
From: Infection Prevention and Control and Occupational Health and Safety
Date: August 19th, 2022
Subject: COVID activity at PRH

Due to the increased number of COVID-19 cases detected at PRH, updates to Infection Control and Occupational Health practices are necessary in order to protect our staff and patients and to prevent further transmission of the virus.

Effective immediately, the following changes are to be implemented:

1. PRH approved eye protection must be worn at all times in clinical areas (this includes nursing stations)
2. The following units will have heightened visitor restrictions, allowing one designated essential caregiver per patient:
 - Medical Units (2A and 3B)
 - Inpatient Surgical
 - Inpatient Rehabilitation

The essential caregiver must be provided with education on PPE use and must be compliant with these requirements. The essential caregiver must stay at the patient's bedside and not ambulate throughout the department. If there are any concerns with essential caregiver compliance which cannot be resolved with teaching and reminders, notify the departmental manager/ delegate.

Additional visitor restrictions remain in place for COVID+ patients. Please reference the "COVID-19 Caregiver and Visitor Policy" for more information.

In addition, staff and physicians are reminded of the following expectations:

1. 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.
2. Staff and physicians working on an outbreak unit must continue to 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.
4. Shared equipment must be disinfected after use/ between patients. This includes items such as vital signs machines, thermometers, glucometers, stethoscopes, etc.

- 5. High touch areas should be disinfected regularly by all staff. Areas such as workstations and break rooms should be disinfected after use using a hospital grade disinfectant wipe.**

Staff and physicians are reminded to closely monitor patients for new onset signs and symptoms of COVID-19. If concerned, immediately place the patient on droplet contact + N95 precautions and notify MRP and Infection Control (ext 7106) or Clinical Resource after hours (ext 6820). Newly symptomatic admitted patients should receive COVID testing by IDNow and PCR.

All staff and physicians are reminded of the requirement to complete the COVID-19 employee responsibility attestation via eLearning and perform self screening for signs and symptoms prior to reporting to work. Staff and Physicians must report any new signs, symptoms, or exposure concerns to the Occupational Health and Safety department (ext 8200) immediately.

We understand that after several years of navigating this pandemic many of you are likely feeling discouraged by this situation. But we ask that you remain vigilant in your PPE use, continue to work together as a team and speak up if a team member has forgotten an important piece of protective wear. We are hopeful that together we will be able to quickly interrupt the transmission of COVID-19 at PRH and again be able to reduce some of these health and safety requirements.