

PEMBROKE REGIONAL HOSPITAL

MEMO

TO: All Staff and Physicians

FROM: IPAC and Occupational Health

DATE: June 27, 2022

SUBJECT: Changes to PPE Requirements

As a result of recent updates to Ministry of Health Guidance and low COVID patient volumes in the hospital, we can now safely suspend some of the COVID 19 restrictions without compromising the safety of our patients, staff and physicians. These updated pandemic response measures are based on guidance from public health authorities and are in line with hospitals across the region.

Effective Tuesday June 28th, 2022:

- Universal masking in non-clinical areas will no longer be required when staff and physicians are able to maintain 6 feet physical distancing and adherence to the posted maximum occupancy for the space. Staff and physicians must continue to follow universal masking for all transient activity (ie. Walking in hallways, using elevators, etc) and for all interactions involving patients, visitors and members of the public.
- Universal eye protection in clinical areas will no longer be required. Eye protection must be worn based on the point of care risk assessment (PCRA) and according to routine practices and additional precautions, including when providing care to suspect and confirmed COVID-19 patients. Units on outbreak for COVID-19 must continue to adhere to universal eye protection for the duration of the outbreak.
- Active COVID-19 staff and physician screening via app will no longer be required. All staff and physicians are reminded of the employee COVID-19 attestation completed via eLearning in 2021. In completing this attestation, all staff and physicians confirmed their responsibility in self identifying new signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and following all health and safety practices set out by PRH. As always, if you feel unwell please do not report to work and contact the Occupational Health Department at ext 8200 for directions.

The “COVID-19 Employee Responsibility Acknowledgement 2021” is a mandatory one time module for all staff and physicians. If you have not yet completed this module or it does not appear on your eLearning home page, you must self enroll to complete the module as soon as possible. If you require assistance with self enrollment, contact the eLearning team by email: eLearning@pemreghos.org

Universal masking remains a requirement for all clinical areas at this time and is an important measure to ensure a safe environment for our patients and staff, as well as limit the risk of transmission and outbreaks.

While we are able to take a pause on some of these pandemic related measures, we will continue to closely monitor the COVID-19 pandemic and will re-introduce infection control and Occupational health measures as indicated.

It is expected that further changes to pandemic response measures will be shared in the coming days.

Please refer to the “Universal Masking and Eye Protection During the COVID-19 Pandemic” policy for full PPE details.