


PEMBROKE REGIONAL HOSPITAL

MEMO

TO: All Staff, Physicians and Volunteers

FROM: PRH Senior Leadership Team 

DATE: December 1, 2020

SUBJECT: COVID-Friendly Guidelines for Christmas Festivities 2020

Due to COVID-19, this Christmas season will be unlike any we have experienced. In alignment with guidance from the Renfrew County and District Health Unit, we are sharing the following information pertaining to several aspects of holiday activities so that you will be able to plan for safe holiday season celebrations at work.

Decorating

While decorating for Christmas is encouraged as a way of bringing some Christmas cheer to our patients, visitors and staff, we are asking that everyone be mindful of decoration placement this year. In particular it is recommended that decorations be kept off high-touch, high-traffic locations (such as nursing stations) and where possible, be placed higher up. Christmas trees should be placed in low traffic areas.

It is also suggested that staff may wish to consider using disposable decorations this year as an alternative to using items that can't be sanitized.

Please work with your Manager who will collaborate with Infection Prevention and Control for specific guidance in your area.

Gatherings

Staff wishing to gather for Christmas meals will need to book a room that enables the group to adhere to maximum room occupancy and other COVID meeting room/break room safety measures.

As eating a meal together is a high risk activity for infections, our Medical Officer of Health is particularly concerned about these activities in the workplace. Please adhere to the recommendations and be particularly vigilant in the month leading up to Christmas so that we will be able to have small family gatherings at Christmas.

Holiday Meals and Treats

Pre-packaged individual meals, treats and other edible items from commercial kitchens will be allowed. Where edible items are not individually packaged, a designated masked server using proper hand hygiene and tongs etc. will need to be assigned to food distribution (no self-serve buffet style meals).

Please note that home baked/cooked food items cannot be brought into the hospital and shared. This includes cookie/baked good exchanges. Sadly, departments will also not be able to accept home-baked goods brought in by our patients and families.

Gifts

Gift items being brought into the hospital for giving, or exchange among health care team members will be allowed so long as proper hand hygiene is practiced before gift giving and receiving, or items are contained in packaging that can be sanitized.

Please note that home baked/cooked food items cannot be brought into the hospital. However, acceptable items include:

- packaged food items such as chocolates or edible items from a commercial kitchen

Again, we understand that this is a difficult time and that the restrictions are sometimes overwhelming. Please continue all of your great efforts in working together to keep our hospital work environment and workforce as safe as possible.