

PEMBROKE REGIONAL HOSPITAL

MEMO

TO: All Staff and Physicians

FROM: Infection Prevention and Control and
Occupational Health and Safety *R. Johnson*

DATE: December 21st, 2021

SUBJECT: Updated PPE Protocols- N95 masks

Emerging evidence indicates that the Omicron variant is significantly more transmissible than previous variants of concern.

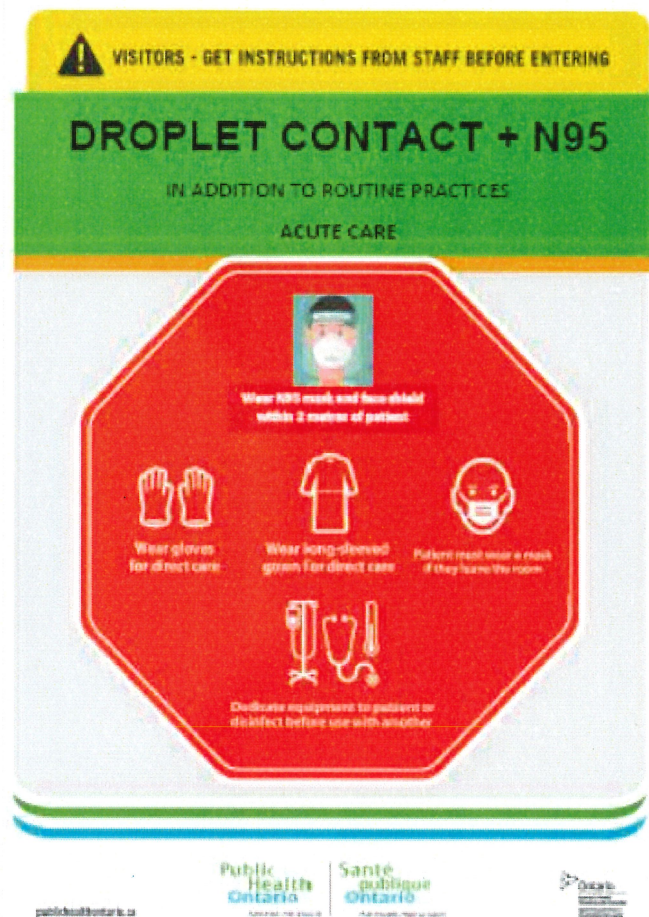
As we continue to learn more about Omicron, Public Health Ontario has released interim guidance for personal protective equipment (PPE) use and Directive #5 from the Chief Medical Officer of Health has been updated to align with these interim recommendations.

Effective Wednesday December 22nd, the following changes to PPE requirements will be in effect:

When providing direct care for patients with suspect or confirmed COVID-19 (Droplet Contact + N95 mask precautions), the following PPE is required:

- A fit-tested, seal checked N95 respirator
- Eye protection (face shield)
- Gown and gloves
- Fit-tested N95 respirators and face shields must continue to be used when aerosol generating medical procedures are performed on patients with suspect or confirmed COVID-19

Please note patients who are suspect COVID (ie. Are symptomatic or have a known exposure to COVID-19) or confirmed COVID-19 positive will be placed on **Droplet Contact + N95 mask** precautions. The posted signage to the patient environment will look this:



This level of precautions indicates the need for a **N95 respirator** vs a regular surgical/ procedure mask.

The revised Directive #5 reinforces the need to continue conservation and stewardship of PPE. This means, N95 respirators must be worn for extended use (up to 4 hours) where possible. N95 respirators for extended use should be removed and discarded if they are wet, visibly soiled, or damaged.

Staff and physicians working in COVID cohort departments and departments with higher numbers of COVID suspect and confirmed patients will be required to follow universal N95 respirator use at all times. This includes:

- Emergency Department
- ICU
- 2A Medical Department

If you have not received your N95 mask fit test or have an expired mask fit test, please contact the Occupational Health and Safety Department by email:

OccHealth@pemreghos.org or phone (ext 8200).

Fit testing of employees will be done in the following priority:

- Expired or not fit tested staff in the above identified high risk departments
- New staff that are don't have a current fit test
- Staff who are near expiry
- Staff in a model with a supply risk (see below)

While current stock of N95 masks is adequate, stock of some models may become a concern as we increase our usage. Staff who were previously fit tested to an 1870+ but were switched early in the pandemic due to shortages of the model number are asked to book another fit test appointment. The 1870+ is now manufactured provincially and is a readily available model. Anyone currently fitted to the 3M 9105 should also be fitted to an alternate mask as this model is being phased out and supply is limited.

If you are unsure of your mask fit date or model, follow the instructions below to access this information.

Re-fresher education is happening now for all staff regarding donning and doffing of N95 respirators. Staff are also encouraged to watch these short videos from Public Health Ontario which identify proper steps for respirator donning and doffing:

<https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/videos/ipac-n95respirator-flat-on>

<https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/videos/ipac-n95respirator-flat-off>

<https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/videos/ipac-n95respirator-cone-on>

<https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/videos/ipac-n95respirator-cone-off>

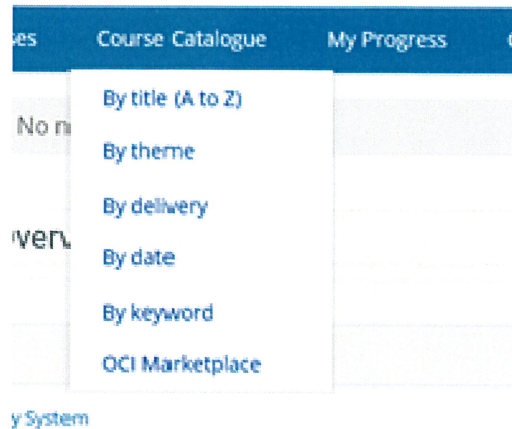
For questions about PPE use, staff and physicians are encouraged to contact the Infection Control Team (ext 7106) or Occupational Health and Safety (ext 8200).

In addition to these updates and following a regional approach, any staff or physician utilizing a shared space where 6 feet physical distancing cannot be maintained and a physical barrier does not separate the work spaces, eye protection (face shield, goggles or PRH approved safety glasses) must be worn in addition to procedure masks.

To Look Up Your Mask Model & Last Fit Test Date

Log in to your e-learning

Select course catalogue and select by title (A to Z)



Select N and then select N95 fit test

MRI Safety (Clinical Resource)
MSD Awareness
N
N95 Fit Test Tracking
Nursing Assessment
NVCi

To look up your mask you would click on search, enter your name and select Save Settings. If nothing shows up, you are not in the system. Contact Occ Health at 8200.

ew list View single Search Add entry Export Templates Fields Presets

Entries per page: 10 Sort by: Time added Ascending ☒ Advanced search Save settings

Fit Test Date: 14 December 2021 ☐ Include in search.

Mask: Choose...

or first name:

thor surname:

Save settings Reset filters

o records found ([Reset filters](#))