

PEMBROKE REGIONAL HOSPITAL

MEMO

TO: All Staff, Physicians and Volunteers

FROM: Kirsten Johnson, *IPAC Clinical Manager*
Sabine Mersmann, *Vice-President Clinical & Support Services / Partnerships & Integration*

DATE: June 17, 2020

SUBJECT: Updated Masking Requirements

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Effective June 18th, all staff, physicians and volunteers will be required to wear a medical-grade mask when they enter the hospital. This change is part of an expansion to PRH's masking requirements which previously required masking on the clinical units and in areas where physical distancing could not be maintained.

This change was made to further protect our staff and patients, and to set an example in our workplace. Over the past few weeks, patients have noticed some staff not wearing a mask inside the hospital and have raised their concerns. As a health care organization, PRH staff should lead by example in the fight against COVID-19, and this includes wearing a mask in all public and clinical areas inside the hospital.

As our screening team adopts this new protocol, you may experience some slight delays as you enter the hospital and we appreciate your patience. In addition, screeners at the patient entrances will be reinforcing that patients should be wearing a mask (homemade or disposable) at all times while in the hospital.

As the hospital increases care activities and overall capacity, you will begin to see more people in common spaces and less space to physical distance. Wearing a mask while in the hospital will offer you additional protection in these situations. Please remember that wearing a mask does not replace the need to physically distance from others, when you are able.

In areas where physical distancing is possible (e.g. working alone or in a private office and able to maintain two metres or six feet distance from others), staff working in non-patient care areas are not required to wear a mask but may choose to do so. You still need to don a mask at the entrance to the building and wear it until you get to your work area. If you find that you need a new mask throughout the day because yours has been damaged or become soiled, please speak to your manager about where you can get a new one.

If you're not familiar with how to properly and safely don (put on) and remove a medical mask, or just need a refresher, we have a great video on our hospital's YouTube channel (pembrokeregionalhospital), *Proper Technique for Wearing and Removing Masks* (May 12, 2020). <https://youtu.be/8iX8SLvzkz8>