

MEMO

TO: All Staff and Physicians

FROM: Infection Prevention and Control and Occupational Health and Safety

DATE: March 25th, 2022

SUBJECT: Policy Updates

In order to align with regional recommendations and practices and guided by the Renfrew County District Health Unit, PRH will be implementing the following policy changes on **Monday March 28th, 2022:**

1. Universal Eye Protection:

- Eye protection will be mandatory for all patient and visitor interactions
- No longer mandatory at all times in clinical areas
- No longer mandatory in non-clinical areas

With these changes we would like to remind all staff and physicians of the importance of completing a point of care risk assessment prior to each interaction. While eye protection may not be mandatory at all times, it is still recommended in clinical areas as an additional safety practice. Staff and physicians must remember to don the personal protective equipment (PPE) which is appropriate for the task, type of interaction and risk of exposure, this includes interactions with co-workers.

Staff and physicians must continue to follow universal masking using a medical grade mask (procedure mask or N95 respirator) at all times for source control and maintain 6 feet physical distancing whenever possible.

2. Visitor policy:

PRH will enter "**Low Pandemic Restrictions**" on Monday March 28th. Low Pandemic Restrictions include:

- Two individuals (visitors or essential caregivers) can be present at the bedside at the same time, with physical distancing. Exceptions will be required for units on outbreak.
- Essential caregivers should continue to be identified by the patient to facilitate integration and communication.
- General visitors do not need to be designated.

- For outpatients, essential caregivers only if safety can be maintained.
- For departments with unit specific visitation guidance, please refer to the **“COVID-19 Caregiver and Visitor Policy”**

While these policy updates are certainly a step in the right direction, we urge everyone to remain vigilant and safe. Compliance with PPE protocols is essential to ensure your safety and the safety of those around you.

PRH will continue to assess and update organizational policy based on regional recommendations, disease prevalence within our community and Ministry Directives. Like all things COVID, these policy updates are subject to change.

Thank you for your continued efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic.