

PEMBROKE REGIONAL HOSPITAL

MEMO

TO: All Physicians and Staff

FROM: Senior Leadership Team

DATE: February 3, 2022

SUBJECT: Strict Adherence to COVID-19 Policies
Necessary To Overcome Current Challenges

While we acknowledge your fatigue resulting from information overload, now, more than even, is a time where we are looking to each of you to do your part, support your co-workers and help our organization get back to the service levels our patients need and deserve.

At a time when there continues to be widespread community transmission of COVID-19's Omicron variant, we have unfortunately had cases of health care worker exposures resulting from breaks in PPE use and non-compliance with organizational policies.

These cases can potentially impact our ability to effectively staff a department when several employees are flagged as high risk exposures.

In order to prevent workplace exposures, staff and physicians must strictly follow these protocols:

1. Universal masking and eye protection
2. Physical distancing
3. Break room "rules", including adherence to maximum occupancy
4. Strict adherence to 6 feet physical distancing anytime PPE is removed for meal breaks (cafeteria, break rooms)

Maintaining strict adherence to these protocols is necessary to reduce organizational transmission of COVID-19, reduce the number of staff who are infected and reduce the pressures on our staff – your co-workers.

Currently, between 50 and 60 staff and physicians are unable to come to work each day because they have either tested positive for COVID-19 or they have been deemed a high risk contact.

These staff shortages are making it challenging for those remaining at PRH but we recognize that there is great collaboration taking place and you are all doing your best to support one another during these difficult circumstances.

With these existing pressures on our departments, we cannot afford to have others sent home due to non-compliance with organizational policy and exposure concerns as a result.

We need to be ready to ramp up our services when we are able to, we need to have our redeployed staff return to their home units, and we need to reduce this HR crisis as much as we can.

Thank you for your understanding and your support of one-another.

Together, we can do this!