

PEMBROKE REGIONAL HOSPITAL

MEMO

TO: All Staff and Physicians

FROM: Infection Prevention and Control and Occupational Health and Safety

DATE: January 21, 2022

SUBJECT: COVID PPE and Safety Protocols



As we continue to navigate our way through the COVID-19 pandemic, and as we enter a new year, we would like to remind our Staff and Physicians about Pembroke Regional Hospital's PPE and Safety protocols. For more information about PPE requirements, please refer to the "Universal Masking and Eye Protection during the COVID-19 Pandemic" policy.

Universal Masking and Mask Requirements:

- All staff and physicians are required to wear a medical grade mask at all times throughout the organization
- Staff and physicians providing direct patient care in high risk departments (ED, ICU, 2A medical) are required to wear fit-tested, seal checked N95 respirators at all times
- Masks must only be removed if working in a private office space or when eating or drinking in a **designated break area**
- Fit-tested, seal checked N95 respirators must be worn when providing care to COVID-19 suspect and COVID-19 positive patients
- Fit-tested, seal checked N95 respirators must be worn by any staff member or physician returning to work under work self isolation protocol following a COVID exposure
- Staff and physicians must continue to complete a point of care risk assessment prior to each clinical interaction and select the appropriate PPE

Universal Eye Protection:

- All staff and physicians are required to wear eye protection at all times in all clinical areas

- All staff and physicians are required to wear eye protection in non-clinical areas anytime 6 feet physical distancing cannot be maintained or during any interactions with patients or visitors

Physical Distancing and Room Occupancy:

- 6 feet physical distancing must be maintained whenever possible
- Staff and physicians are required to adhere to posted maximum occupancy signage for meeting rooms and break rooms
- Anytime PPE is removed for meal breaks, 6 feet physical distancing must be maintained. Keep your mask on in break rooms unless eating or drinking

Health and Safety Requirements:

- Food and drink must only be consumed in dedicated break areas, food and drink must not be consumed at shared work stations (ie. Nursing stations)
- Electronic COVID-19 symptom and exposure screening must continue to be completed prior to entry into the workplace

We understand that many are feeling fatigued when it comes to COVID-19 rules and regulations but we must continue to be cautious in order to protect ourselves, our patients, our colleagues and our community. While generally there is good compliance amongst staff and physicians with PPE and safety protocols, there have been sightings and reports of individuals loosening their adherence to these important precautions and this is not acceptable. We recognize that this has been a long journey, but adherence to health and safety policies are still a requirement. Failure to comply with such policies and protocols may result in discipline.

It is important that we continue to work together to ensure the safety of all. Staff and physicians have done an exceptional job to educate and reinforce our PPE and health and safety protocols with visitors and essential caregivers and we would encourage you to support one another in the same way. If you see a colleague not adhering to PPE policy, we encourage you to speak up. Be polite, be discreet, and reference hospital policy/ expectations when reminding colleagues about the importance of PPE. If you have concerns about non-compliance or are not comfortable to speak with your colleague, it is important to notify your departmental manager/ supervisor or delegate for follow up.

Please direct any questions to InfectionControl@pemreghos.org or OccHealth@pemreghos.org and thanks for your continued adherence.

Previous communications on COVID-19-related updates, including previous communiques on PPE and safety protocols, can be found here: <https://www.pemreghos.org/covid-19>