

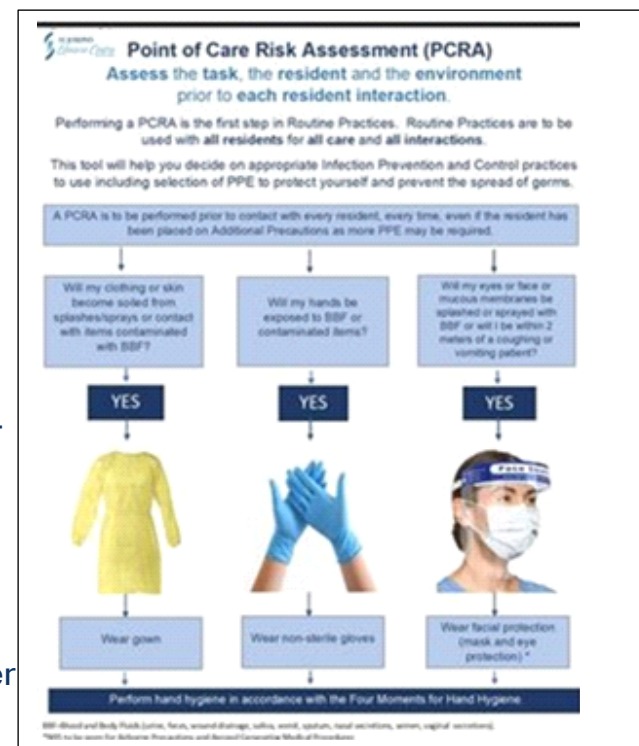
NEW: Updates to the Ministry of LTC Covid 19 Directives (received on June 23, 2023)

Effective Immediately, the following changes have been put in place. Please read!

MASKING Requirements

For staff, students, volunteers, and support workers:

- Masking will be based on a point-of-care risk assessment (PCRA), consistent with existing Routine Practices, and on the return-to-work protocol following COVID-19 infection.
- A PCRA must be completed by every health care worker before every resident interaction and task to determine whether there is a risk to the health care worker or other individuals of being exposed to an infectious agent, including COVID-19, and determine the appropriate IPAC measures to be taken (see the poster to the right).
- Staff may consider wearing a mask during prolonged direct resident care (defined as one-on-one care within two metres of an individual for 15 minutes or longer).
- Masks are no longer required in administrative and staff-only areas (e.g., lunchrooms, offices, gyms).
- St. Joseph's Lifecare will support anyone who prefers to continue wearing a mask beyond minimum requirements and expect everyone to treat all with respect no matter what decision an individual makes.
- Staff are expected to be respectful of a residents (or substitute decision-makers) preferences in mask wearing. If it is requested that a staff member is to wear a mask when providing care, in alignment with the Residents' Bill of Rights, then staff are expected to do so.*



For caregivers and visitors:

- Masks are encouraged, but not required.
- This means that caregivers and visitors may now join in for dining and sharing a meal or beverage in communal areas.

DURING OUTBREAKS - In outbreak situations, or if a resident is on Additional Precautions, all individuals are required to comply with masking and other personal protective equipment requirements as directed by the outbreak management team and the local public health unit.

- Home Areas that are identified as being in a suspect or confirmed outbreak, masks will be required by everyone in that area! N95 will also be used on confirmed outbreak units for those who are caring for a resident who is COVID +.

WHAT HAPPENS IF SOMEONE IS COVID POSITIVE

- Staff may now routinely return to work once they no longer have a fever and their symptoms have been improving for 24 hours (48 hours if gastrointestinal symptoms).
- Upon return to work, they should follow measures to reduce the risk of transmission for 10 days from their symptom onset/positive test, including wearing a mask and distancing from others before they remove their mask (e.g., to eat or drink).
- Residents with COVID-19 remain in isolation and under additional precautions for 10 days.
- If they are able to independently and consistently wear a mask, they may leave their room to participate in activities and join others in communal areas provided they meet the following criteria:
 - It has been a minimum of 5 days from symptom onset or positive test.
 - They are asymptomatic or their symptoms have been improving for 24 hours (48 hours if gastrointestinal symptoms) and no fever is present.
 - They wear a mask at all times outside of their room, they do not join in communal dining (since they cannot remove their mask around others), and they continue to follow additional precautions for 10 days after their symptom onset or positive test.
- If a resident is unable to mask, the resident must remain in isolation for 10 days following symptom onset.
- Roommate close contacts should be placed on Additional Precautions.
- Individuals who remain asymptomatic may discontinue isolation after a minimum of 5 days (based on 5 days from when the case became symptomatic or tested positive).
- Visitors should continue to avoid visiting a long-term care home for 10 days after symptom onset or positive test result. However, a visitor who is essential to the resident's overall health and well-being (e.g., a caregiver) is able to visit within the 10-day timeframe if asymptomatic or symptoms have resolved, but must follow measures to reduce the risk of transmission for 10 days from their symptom onset/positive test, including wearing a mask.

SCREENING/HAND HYGIENE

Everyone is required to conduct passive screening upon arrival, which means you review screening questions posted at entrances. If you answer 'YES' to any of the questions, please refrain from entering the building.

- We kindly request that you continuously monitor your health for COVID-19 symptoms and refrain from visiting or working if symptoms are present.*
- Hand Hygiene continues to be one of our most effective ways of keeping yourself and others safe.