



Interoffice Memorandum

Date: November 3, 2023

To: Residents, Visitors, Staff, Volunteers, Students

C.C: Resident Council President
Family Council President
Union Presidents
Administrator

From: Laura MacDermaid, Director, LTC & Services for Seniors

Subject: Enhanced Masking in Long Term Care Homes

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Laura MacDermaid
Director, Long-Term Care
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I am writing to advise you of changes to enhance masking to optimize health and safety in our long-term care homes (LTCHs) while balancing the impact on resident and staff well-being.

Recent trends have shown a moderate to high level of community transmission of respiratory infections and outbreaks in LTCHs. It is projected that COVID-19 activity may peak in the next few weeks, around the same time it is anticipated that influenza and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) will rise.

Based on the advice of the Chief Medical Officer of Health, the Ministry of LTC has announced the following enhanced masking measures for non-outbreak situations will be in effect **as of November 7, 2023:**

- Staff, students, support workers and volunteers are required to wear masks when in resident areas indoors. This includes the common areas of the home such as the main floor, auditorium and elevators. Masks are not required in staff areas such as kitchen, laundry, offices.
- It is strongly recommended that visitors and caregivers wear masks in resident areas indoors except when with the resident in the resident's room or when eating or drinking with the resident in communal spaces.

Our homes will continue to have masks readily available throughout the home. IPAC practices, such as hand-hygiene, should continue to be followed to promote safety and well-being.

Please note that in the event of an outbreak, the home will follow the guidance of the Public Health Department as related to specific protocols that may be required.

Enhanced masking requirements will be reassessed by the Ministry of LTC once the current wave of respiratory virus activity has declined.

Finally, a reminder that getting your influenza vaccine and staying up to date with your COVID-19 vaccine is the best way to remain protected from the most serious effects of these viruses.

Thank you for your continued vigilance and commitment to the health and safety of residents, caregivers, students, volunteers and colleagues.