



To: All Staff, Professional Staff, Learners, and Volunteers

From: Chad Johnson, Acting VP Patient Experience, Chief Nursing Executive, Regional VP Regional Cancer Centre

Date: September 22, 2023

RE: **Increased Masking Requirements**

We continue to experience impacts on our Inpatient Clinical Units due to respiratory and influenza type illnesses. For that reason, we are stepping up our masking requirements effective Tuesday, September 26, 2023.

Please note that as of September 26th, masking will be required for **all Inpatient Clinical Units** when entering a patient room and when not able to maintain 6 feet of physical distancing to patients. The masking requirement for this area includes all Staff, Professional Staff, Learners, Volunteers and Essential Care Partners/Care Partners (ECPs/CPs).

Additionally, Staff, Professional Staff, Learners, Volunteers, Patients, ECPs/CPs, will be required to wear a mask when in the **Emergency Department**.

Please see the following details on masking requirements:

1A Inpatient Units –*Continued as per memo on September 15th*

- **All Staff, Professional Staff, Learners, Volunteers and ECPs/CPs** are required to wear a minimum Level 3 procedure mask at all times while on units 1A Medicine, and 1A Acute Oncology. This includes when entering a patient room and when within the 1A clinical area.

All other Inpatient Units

- **All Staff, Professional Staff, Learners and Volunteers** must wear a minimum Level 3 procedure mask at all times when entering a patient's room, when providing direct patient care, including transportation of patients and at any time they are unable to maintain 6 feet of physical distancing.
- **All ECPs/CPs** visiting in an inpatient room must wear a minimum Level 3 procedure mask when entering a patient's room and whenever they are unable to maintain 6 feet of physical distancing standards within the unit. Masking is not required when outside a patient's room unless you are unable to maintain a physical distance of 6 feet within a clinical setting.



Emergency Department

- **All Staff, Professional Staff, Learners and Volunteers** must wear a minimum Level 3 procedure mask at all times when entering a patient's room, when providing direct patient care, including transportation of patients and at any time they are unable to maintain 6 feet of physical distancing.
- **All Patients and ECPs/CPs accompanying a patient** must wear a minimum Level 3 procedure mask at all times.

This step up in masking protocols is part of our steps to avoid moving towards a Restricted State where mandatory masking is required facility-wide. We ask that you please abide by the above requirements to prevent further steps towards mandatory masking. As well, abide by any additional IPAC protocols and practice proper hand hygiene.

Public communication and signage will be provided to support the above requirements.

Further communication will occur on this topic as required.

Thank you for your commitment to keeping our patients, staff and Hospital safe. If you have any questions, please ask your manager or reach out to IPAC (684-6094) for further details on best practices.