

MEMO

To: Radiant Care Residents, Families, and Staff

From: Fola Akano, Senior Administrator Long-Term Care

Date: November 6, 2023

Subject: **ENHANCED MASKING IN LONG-TERM CARE GUIDELINES**

Recent trends have shown a moderate to high level of community transmission of COVID-19 and an increase in COVID-19 outbreaks in LTCHs, with an increased risk of hospitalization among residents. 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.

Following changes to the Ministry of Long-Term Care's COVID-19 Guidance Document for Long-term Care as part of the readiness for the respiratory response, the following **enhanced masking** changes below take effect at Radiant Care **immediately**:

For staff, students, volunteers, and support workers:

- Masks are **required** to be worn in all resident areas indoors.
- Masks are **required** based on the return-to-work protocol following COVID-19 infection as outlined by the IPAC team.
- Staff should continue to perform point-of-care risk assessment before each resident encounter and wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE).

For caregivers and visitors:

- Strongly recommend visitors and caregivers to mask in resident home areas indoors except when with the resident in the resident's room or when eating or drinking with a resident in communal spaces.

Residents in shared rooms:

- Visitors visiting residents who live in shared rooms may only remove their masks when in a designated private visiting area. Please ask nursing staff about accessing a private visiting area if space permits.
- If an employee or another resident enters the private visiting area while a visitor is visiting with their mask off; the visitor must put their mask on while the other person is in the room.

Continue diligent Hand Hygiene practices and self-monitoring for symptoms (i.e., passive screening) and staying home when sick. Please continue to diligently use the screening kiosk to answer all the screening questions at the Long-Term Care entrance for each visit.

Enhanced masking requirements will be reassessed once the current COVID-19 wave and other respiratory virus activity have declined.

Cc: Tim Siemens, Chief Executive Officer, Radiant Care
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