

MEMO

To: Radiant Care Residents, Families and Staff

From: Fola Akano, Senior Administrator Long-Term Care

Date: March 6, 2024

SUBJECT: MINISTRY OF LONG-TERM CARE MASKING DIRECTIVE UPDATE

As of March 4, 2024, with the reduction in transmission of respiratory infections within Long-Term Care Homes, the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care has updated the masking directive. The following takes effect immediately:

Masking Requirements and Recommendations

For Staff, Students, Volunteers and Support Workers

- Staff are **required** to perform a point of care risk assessment (PCRA) prior to any resident interaction to determine whether masking is needed.
- Masks are **required** based on the return-to-work protocol following COVID-19 infection as outlined by the IPAC team.
- Staff are to wear a mask during prolonged direct resident care, defined as one-on-one care within two meters of an individual for 15 minutes or longer.
- Staff who prefer to wear a mask beyond minimum requirements are encouraged to do so.

For Caregivers and Visitors

- Masks are recommended but not required in all areas of the home.
- Children who are younger than two years of age are not required to wear a mask.

Residents in Shared Rooms

- While visiting residents who live in a shared room, visitors may only remove their masks when in a designated private visiting area.
- If a resident in a shared room is uncomfortable with others removing their masks, if space permits Radiant Care will designate a space that allows residents to visit with family and caregivers. Please ask nursing staff about accessing a private visiting area.

Other Communication

- Continue diligent Hand Hygiene practices.

- Residents or substitute decision makers who request that a staff member wear a mask when providing care, in alignment with the Residents' Bill of Rights, must comply with their request.
- Please continue to diligently use the screening kiosk **to answer all the screening questions** at the Long-Term Care entrance for each visit. **Do not visit if you are ill.**

CC: Tim Siemens, Chief Executive Officer, Radiant Care
Erin Heynemans, Director of Care, Radiant Care Tabor Manor
Dawn Clyens, Director of Clinical Services, Radiant Care Pleasant Manor
Nicole Callaghan, Infection Prevention and Control Lead, Radiant Care