



# Interoffice Memorandum

**Date:** June 28, 2023

**To:** Residents and Family Members

**C.C:** Resident Council President  
Family Council President  
Administrator

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

**Subject:** Updated COVID-19 Measures

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The province is again updating its COVID-19 measures in long-term care homes in consultation with the Chief Medical Officer of Health.

The Ministry of Long-Term Care is taking the next step in the phased approach to embedding COVID-19 response measures into routine operations. As of June 29, please note the following changes:

## **Masking requirements**

For staff, students, volunteers and support workers:

- Masking will be based on the individual's point-of-care risk assessment to determine whether there is a risk to themselves or other individuals of being exposed to an infectious agent, including COVID-19, and determine appropriate IPAC measures to be taken.
- Masks are no longer required in administrative or other areas of the home.
- Should a resident or SDM request that a health care worker or volunteer wears a mask when providing care, this is to be complied with in accordance with Residents' Bill of Rights. If you wish to have the healthcare worker or volunteer masked when providing care, please make this request of the RN on the home area. For purpose of clarity, care as it relates to masking, is defined as any prolonged interaction with the resident that requires close contact (within 2 metres) for 15 minutes or longer.

For caregivers and visitors:

- Masks are recommended but not required, in all areas of the home
- Caregivers and visitors may join in activities, sharing a meal or beverage in communal areas and provide mealtime assistance without masking.

Our homes will continue to have masks readily available to any visitor who wishes to continue to wear a mask beyond minimum requirements.

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IPAC practices, such as hand-hygiene, should continue to be followed in communal spaces 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 reinstated.

**Visiting:**

Visitors should continue to avoid visiting the home for 10 days after symptom onset or a positive COVID-19 test result.

**COVID-19 Vaccination:**

Getting vaccinated and staying up to date with your COVID-19 vaccines is the best way to remain protected from the most serious effects of COVID-19. Individuals at increased risk of severe illness due to COVID-19, including LTC residents, were recommended to receive a bivalent booster this Spring, provided 6 months have passed since their last vaccine dose or confirmed COVID-19 infection. It is anticipated that a Fall booster might also be recommended for LTC residents ahead of the Fall respiratory illness season. More information to follow.

**Concluding Comments:**

The health and safety of residents remains paramount, and we will continue to work with our partners to ensure residents and their families receive the level of care they need and deserve in a comfortable setting, and that residents, families, staff and volunteers are able to live and work in a safe environment.

These past few years have been very challenging and uncomfortable for everyone as we navigated our way through this pandemic, so the removal of the universal mask mandate is a significant move as we continue to transition into a 'new normal' state. It is important to note that the landscape is continually changing and at any time the Ministry determines it necessary, precautions may need to be reinstated.

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