



MEMO: Masking Guidelines

CC: Lindsay Vandenberg, Virginia Bright, Dana Horton, Candace Lefebvre, Casey Haas, Ryan Swartz, Kerri Hill

Effective Date: March 4, 2024

RE: Universal Masking

These are the following changes in practice related to universal masking in the home:

Based on the recent trends and projections, and the advice of OCMOH, MLTC is ending the enhanced masking measures effective immediately.

Recent trends have shown continued decreases in community level transmission of COVID-19, flu, and RSV, as well as decreases in outbreaks in LTCHs, with lower risk of severe illness and hospitalization amongst residents, and increased vaccination rates.

While outbreaks can still be expected, we anticipate entering a lower risk period of respiratory illness than we have experienced over the past three months.

As required in the Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) Standard and the updated MLTC COVID-19 guidance document, masking in non-outbreak situations in LTCHs continues to be:

- Required for staff, based on a point-of-care risk assessment before every resident interaction, and based on the return-to-work protocols.
- Staff may consider wearing a mask during prolonged direct resident care defined as one-on-one within two meters of an individual for fifteen minutes or longer; and
- Recommended for visitors and caregivers, but not required.

If you have any questions,

Gayle McDougall
Infection Control Manager ext. 7175