



MEMO: Masking Recommendations

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RE: Universal Masking During Respiratory Season – Highly Recommended

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

Based on the recent trends and projections, and the advice of Ministry of Health and Ministry of Labor it is recommended to wear medical masks in our Home setting.

Recent trends have shown continued increases in community level transmission of Influenza, COVID 19 and RSV as well as increase in outbreaks in Long Term Care Homes and hospital settings, with higher risk of severe illness and hospitalization amongst residents.

We anticipate entering a higher risk period of respiratory illness than we have experienced over the past year.

As encouraged by the Ministry of Health and the Chief Medical Officer of Health homes are encouraged to reinforce their Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) practices with consideration for additional IPAC measures, including increased masking, active screening of visitors and staff and enhanced environmental cleaning. Also noted by the Chief Medical Officer of Health that vaccination is our strongest defense and most effective measure to prevent severe illness, hospitalizations and death with our most vulnerable populations.

At this time we are not making masking mandatory, but we are highly encouraging every person to do the following:

- Hand hygiene throughout your visit/shift.
- Required for staff based on return-to-work protocols: if respiratory symptoms have been improving for 24 hours and without fever, you may return to work but are required to wear a medical mask until day 10 of your symptom onset.
- Staff are encouraged to wear a mask during direct resident care defined as one-on-one within two meters; and based on a point-of-care risk assessment before every resident interaction.
- Recommended for visitors and caregivers.

If you have any questions, please contact

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