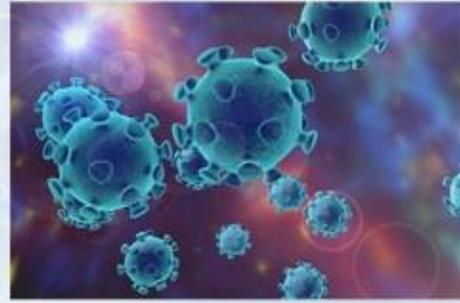


# COVID-19 Update

## Employee and Physician Information



## Memo from Infection Prevention and Control

February 17, 2021

**Re: *UPDATE* - PPE Recommendations During *Widespread Community Transmission of COVID-19***

As an update to our previous memo (updates in red), and in accordance with *Newfoundland and Labrador's Guideline for Prioritization and Use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) in Pandemic COVID-19 in Low Prevalence Period and Increasing or Widespread Community Prevalence Period (updated February 15, 2021)*, effective immediately for the Eastern Health Region:

- A face shield and mask must be worn during all client encounters in all inpatient, community and residential settings including Long Term Care. The mask and face shield is to be worn for repeated interactions with multiple clients. NOTE: Face shields are to be changed in between each patient encounter for suspect or confirmed cases.
- COVID-19 assessment and treatment units are to continue established PPE processes.
- If you anticipate your skin/clothing or hands being exposed to splashes, blood, body fluid excretions, secretions or non-intact skin during that encounter, gloves and gowns must be worn.
- It is optional to wear a face shield in common areas.

All healthcare workers are advised to continue using their [Point of Care Risk Assessment \(PCRA\)](#) to determine the appropriate PPE for that particular encounter. Based on the PCRA, healthcare workers shall have access to the appropriate PPE. This will not be unreasonably denied by their employer, or the employee shall be deployed to another area. A PCRA will determine if Additional Precautions are required.

For more information, please refer to the provincial document which can be found here: <https://www.gov.nl.ca/covid-19/files/NL-PPE-guidelines-Feb-15-2021update.docx.pdf>.

As information, epidemiology and prevalence evolves, this direction will be reassessed and adjusted accordingly.

**Carla St. Croix**

Regional Director, Infection Prevention and Control

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Report all potential communicable diseases to Occupational Health: 709-777-7777, line 3, line 2, or email [occhealth@easternhealth.ca](mailto:occhealth@easternhealth.ca).

[covid19.inquiries@easternhealth.ca](mailto:covid19.inquiries@easternhealth.ca) | Navigator Line: 709-752-3663 (M-S 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.) | [www.easternhealth.ca/covid19](http://www.easternhealth.ca/covid19) | [COVID-19 Intranet page](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)