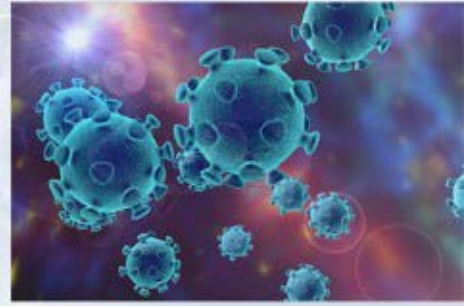


COVID-19 Update

Employee and Physician Information



Memo from Infection Prevention and Control

February 12, 2021

Re: UPDATE - PPE Recommendations During the Ongoing COVID-19 Transmission Investigation

As an update to our previous memo, effective immediately for the Eastern Health Region:

- A face shield and mask must be worn during all client encounters in all outpatient and community settings, Emergency rooms, Intensive Care Units, Paramedicine, and case rooms. 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.
- For all other inpatient areas, a face shield and mask must be worn during all client encounters pending admission COVID-19 swab results. If the client has a negative swab result, staff can use their PCRA to determine what PPE is required. Face shields are to be changed in between each patient encounter for suspect or confirmed cases.
- 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.

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-Guidlines-and-Prioritization-Dec-22.pdf>.

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

Carla St. Croix

Regional Director, Infection Prevention and Control

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

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