



# Eastern Health

## **MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** All Staff, Eastern Health

**FROM:** Carla St. Croix, Regional Director, Infection Prevention and Control  
Dr. Natalie Bridger, Clinical Chief, Infection Prevention and Control

**DATE:** February 12, 2021

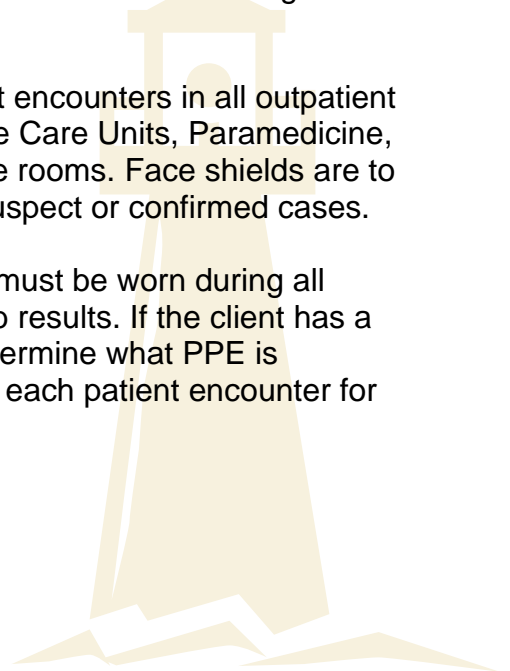
**RE: PPE Recommendations During the Ongoing COVID-19 Transmission Investigation**

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In accordance with the “*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*” from the Provincial COVID-19 PPE Task Force, the transition from low prevalence of COVID-19 to increasing or widespread community transmission will be determined by the Regional Medical Officer of Health (RMOH) in connection with the Chief Medical Officer of Health (CMOH). This may be implemented at a community, regional, or provincial level dependent upon the epidemiology of COVID-19.

Considering the current cases in the St. John’s metro area and while the investigation of these cases is ongoing, the following is recommended:

- A face shield and mask must be worn during all client encounters in all outpatient and community settings, Emergency rooms, Intensive Care Units, Paramedicine, COVID-19 assessment and treatment units, and case rooms. Face shields are to be changed in between each patient encounter for suspect or confirmed cases.
- 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.