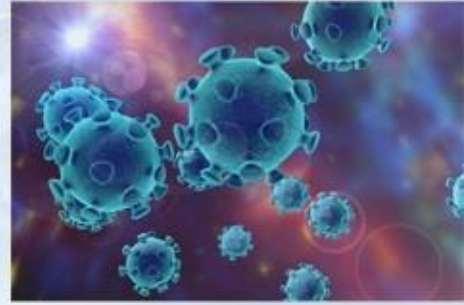


COVID-19 Update

Employee and Physician Information



Memo from the St. Clare's Mercy Hospital EOC

All Staff and Physicians, St. Clare's Mercy Hospital

February 27, 2021

Re: COVID-19 Update

As we continue to navigate through COVID-19 Alert Level 5, we would like to keep staff informed of the following new changes and key reminders.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

If a patient receives a negative test result, they will remain on droplet precautions. PPE and isolation requirements will be required and patients will be reassessed Monday morning when all site testing results are received and reviewed. Throughout the weekend, staff must wear full contact/droplet precaution PPE during all patient encounters. PPE should be changed between each patient interaction. Full contact/droplet precaution PPE includes:

- mask
- face shield
- gown
- gloves

PLEASE NOTE: In all common areas, including offices, unit group areas, hallways, etc., the following PPE is mandatory:

- full face shields and
- masks

Social distancing, of two metres or more, as well as hand hygiene practices must be maintained.

Clearance of Swabs for All St. Clare's Mercy Hospital Staff

The Medical Officer of Health has directed Eastern Health to swab all staff and patients who attended St. Clare's Mercy Hospital from February 19 to 26th. All staff and physicians must isolate away from their families until a **negative** result is received. If you are unable to isolate at home or require hotel services, please contact the Navigator Line at (709) 752-3663.

Staff can check their swab results via

<https://healthnl.ca/concerto/nlchi/covidresults/CovidResultsSplash.htm>.

Staff will **NOT** be required to receive clearance from Occupational Health as this is site testing. Only those that tested positive will be contacted by Occupational Health.

Break Room Safety

Mask compliance is mandatory in all health-care facilities. You can find the [mask compliance policy on the intranet](#). Please note the following reminders:

- Eat only in designated eating areas, e.g, break rooms, cafeterias.
- Drink only when you are alone and can properly remove your mask.
- It is mandatory to maintain a distance of six feet between staff when unmasked and while eating or drinking. Please remember, there is no such thing as a "work bubble".
- Masks should only be removed while eating or drinking and masks must be replaced immediately afterwards.

Direction Regarding Vaccination Scheduling for Staff in Self-Isolation

Should you have an appointment for a COVID-19 vaccine in the coming days, please note:

- If you are COVID-19 positive, you must reschedule your appointment for when your isolation period is complete. Attending the vaccination site may put others at increased risk for COVID-19.
- If you are a close contact of a COVID-19 positive person, you must reschedule your appointment for when your isolation period is complete. Attending the vaccination site may put others at increased risk for COVID-19.
- If you are currently awaiting test results because of the St. Clare's Mercy Hospital site testing, you must reschedule your vaccine appointment.

If any of the above applies to you, please call **(709) 693-7720** to rebook your appointment with the COVID-19 vaccine staff.

Process for Runners Delivering Patient Belongings

When patients' belongings are dropped off at St. Clare's Mercy Hospital, the receiving unit will be notified. All runners must be met at unit doors and runners are not to enter any units. Runners will place patients' belongings outside the door once the receiving staff is at the door. Unit staff will retrieve the belongings from the corridor once runners are six feet from the door.

Spotting

To ensure the safety of your colleagues, it is everyone's responsibility to:

- monitor compliance with personal protective equipment (PPE) protocols;
- guide, correct, and assist staff during donning and doffing of PPE.

Face Shields

Eastern Health will make face shields available for all staff at staff entry points.

Respectful Workplace

While we continue to work through the COVID-19 pandemic, we know that this is a stressful time for many people. Some staff have been subject to self-isolation while others have been subject to redeployment. There are many different scenarios that the management team are working hard to support.

Please be kind and respectful to our colleagues as we all continue to work hard and provide optimal care to our patients while keeping them and you safe. If you need to talk to someone, our Human Resources rapid response team will be available doing team check-ins throughout weekend at St. Clare's Mercy Hospital. Eastern Health has many psychological and health and safety supports such as EVA, the Employee Virtual Assistant, and the Navigator Line at (709) 752-3663. Links to these supports and more can be found on the [Healthy Workplace section of the employee intranet](#).

Thank you for your continued cooperation through this evolving, and again, please reach out if needed.

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

Navigator Line: 709-752-3663 (24 hours, seven days a week) | www.easternhealth.ca/covid19 | [COVID-19 Intranet page](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)