

Memo

To: All Employees

From: Management Committee

Date: July 13, 2023

Re: Updated COVID-19 Guidelines

We would like to update all staff that on June 23, 2023 the Ministry of Health (MOH) released an updated version of the “COVID-19 Guidance: Long-Term Care Homes, Retirement Homes, and Other Congregate Living Settings for Public Health Units” in alignment with direction provided to other sectors.

Highlights on the changes impacting congregate living settings have been summarized in this Memo.

Community Living York South (CLYS) would also like to recognize and thank our wonderful staff teams, as they have gone above and beyond, in their support of each other and people we support.

Masking requirements and recommendations:

- Masking is required as part of a personal risk assessment for staff, students and volunteers. Please see enclosed Risk Assessment document and guidelines below which will help you determine if you need to wear a mask. Masks are required for staff as part of return-to-work protocols following COVID-19 infection (see below).
- Staff may consider wearing a mask when providing prolonged, direct care indoors or outdoors (defined as one-on-one care within two meters for greater than 15 minutes) for residents/clients at high risk of severe outcomes (e.g., immunocompromised).
- Masks are recommended, but no longer required, to be worn indoors by visitors and caregivers when visiting settings that are not in outbreak.

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Staff return to work in highest-risk settings:

- Upon return to work, staff must follow measures to reduce the risk of transmission such as ensure they are wearing a well-fitted mask for 10 days from symptom onset/positive test. See Annexure for more information.
- In general, staff with COVID-19 or COVID-19 symptoms may return to work once they no longer have a fever and their symptoms have been improving for 24 hours (48 hours if vomiting/diarrhea).

Visitors:

- General visitors who test positive for COVID-19 should avoid non-essential visits to anyone who is immunocompromised or at higher risk of illness for 10 days.
- Where visits cannot be avoided (e.g., essential caregiver), the visitor must wear a medical mask and maintain physical distancing while in the setting.

COVID-19 Therapeutics

- Congregate living settings are encouraged to provide information on COVID-19 therapeutics and encourage residents/clients to speak with their primary care provider to come up with a treatment plan in case they get sick, as appropriate. Therefore, Community Living York South (CLYS) will continue to provide updates on best practices and recommendations from time to time.
- The Ministry of Health is retiring the “Management of Staffing in Highest Risk Settings” guidance document which provided recommendations for Return to Work in highest risk settings with critical staffing shortages.

Some pandemic response measures may be reinstated if the province enters a high-risk period of respiratory virus transmission, such as during the fall respiratory virus season. We will keep you updated upon receipt of new information or any changes.

Please reach out to your Program Manager if you have any questions regarding this Memo.

Attached: Annexure: Performing a Risk Assessment Related to Routine Practices and Additional Precautions.