

PEMBROKE REGIONAL HOSPITAL

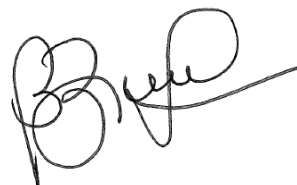
MEMO

TO: All Staff and Physicians

FROM: IPAC and Occupational Health

DATE: December 16th, 2021

SUBJECT: Recommendations related to COVID-19
Omicron Variant of Concern



In response to the evolving situation related to the COVID-19 Omicron variant of concern (VOC), the Regional Infection Control and Occupational Health teams have distributed updated recommendations with further revised guidance expected.

The Omicron VOC is concerning because it has taken a significant and sudden evolutionary leap reflected by a large number of mutations compared with other variants. At this time, the clinical and public health significance of mutations associated with this variant remain uncertain, in terms of transmissibility, disease severity, and effectiveness of current public health measures, including vaccination, in containing its spread.

In order to best protect our staff, physicians, patients and community, PRH is adapting the following regional recommendations:

1. Universal eye protection will be reinstated at all times in clinical areas, **effective Friday, December 17th, 2021**. As well, eye protection remains mandatory for all interactions with patients and visitors outside of the clinical areas.
2. Meeting room rules effective **Friday, December 17th, 2021**:
 - All persons in attendance at an in-person meeting/session must wear a medical grade mask at all times **and** maintain 6 feet physical distancing.
 - Maximum occupancy signage must be followed. This signage indicates the total number of people permitted in the room at one time (to ensure 6 feet physical distancing between attendees).
 - Please consider virtual options (when possible) for meetings, education sessions, etc.

As a reminder, staff and physicians must complete a point-of-care risk assessment (PCRA) prior to each clinical interaction. If, after risk assessment, the health care worker feels that an N95 mask is required, they are readily available on the clinical units for staff to use.

Staff and physicians are also reminded about the importance of a PCRA prior to non-clinical interactions. Consider choosing eye protection as an added layer of protection based on your PCRA.

In addition, in the coming days, more communication will roll out pertaining to updates to our Visitor policy based on regional recommendations.

We recognize that these are trying times once again and that all current information is subject to change.

Please ensure that you regularly monitor all staff and physician communication vehicles in order to have the most up-to-date information.