

PEMBROKE REGIONAL HOSPITAL

MEMO

TO: All Employees

FROM: Human Resources/Infection Control

DATE: April 7, 2020

SUBJECT: Uniform Guidelines

In order to assure our community that staff is not wearing infected uniforms in local businesses and, given that we are in an ever-evolving global crisis, we need to do our part to help our community and reduce the spread of the virus. Unless we take an aggressive approach, this virus will continue to spread.

It is recommended best practice that **ALL direct patient care staff**, regardless of position or department, and environmental services support staff (laundry and housekeeping) are expected to arrive at work in “street clothes” and change into work attire at the hospital. At the end of your shift, you must change into your “street clothes” to go home. This includes footwear. Some additional directions:

- Bring your work clothes in a washable/disposable bag and change into these clean, dedicated work clothes and shoes at work.
- Before you leave work, change into clean “street clothes” and put your dirty clothes and work shoes into your washable/disposable bag.
- When you arrive home, leave your shoes in the garage or outside the door, shower immediately and wash your clothes and the bag they were in (if utilizing washable bag – otherwise throw away disposable bag).

- For additional information, please refer to the link below from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: Cleaning Disinfection for Households
https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cleaning-disinfection.html?CDD_AArefVal=https%3A%20%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fprepare%2Fcleaning-disinfection.html

Staff who are required to wear hospital-issued surgical scrubs in designated areas such as the operating room will continue to do so. These scrubs are not to be worn into or out of the facility. If you did not routinely wear hospital-issued scrubs as part of your work routine prior to the COVID-19 outbreak, you do not require hospital-issued scrubs.

This is also a time when wearing PRH apparel (such as sweatshirts) in the community is not advisable, as community members may misinterpret that this apparel has been worn at work.

In addition to the above, **ALL** staff at PRH **need** to take proactive steps to minimize the risk of virus spread.

If you are not already doing so, **all patient care staff** should consider the following:

- Remove all watches and hand/arm jewelry before work, do not wear nail polish, and bring your lunch and snacks in a washable/disposable bag.
- Sanitize your phone, ID badge and glasses.
- Put your work dishes, water bottle, coffee cup etc. through the dishwasher.
- When you arrive home, leave your shoes in the garage or outside the door.
- It is highly encouraged that you shower before you interact with your family.

This is for the protection of you, your family and the community. Thank you for your support as we ensure measures are taken to reduce the spread of COVID-19.