

Staff Communication Regarding Masks

(Humber River Hospital)

1. IMPORTANT UPDATE ON MASKS FOR ALL PATIENT FACING STAFF, PHYSICIANS AND VOLUNTEERS (SPV)

- We would like to thank all SPV for making a concerted effort to preserve Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) over the past 2 weeks.
- While there is still uncertainty about the availability of PPE across the entire health system in the weeks going forward, we are working in alignment with our hospital partners and the government to ensure that all patient facing SPV at HRH are provided with 2 procedure masks per day. Each will also be provided with 1 pair of permanent goggles for eye protection.
- **Starting tomorrow (Tuesday, March 24),** we will be providing SPV who are in a patient-facing role at the Hospital, 2 procedure masks and 1 pair of permanent goggles. This applies to all 3 HRH sites.
- This shift is not because we believe that our SPV are at a higher risk than previously understood, nor because of any change in the science behind the recommendations for personal protective equipment (PPE). Rather, we are making this change:
 - In recognition of rising numbers of positive cases of COVID-19 in the community, as we enter the next phase of the pandemic
- New procedures for SPV in patient-facing roles are as follows:
 - Each day, the Manager on your respective patient care unit will provide SPV who are in patient-facing roles with two procedure masks to wear throughout their shift.
 - SPV will be shown the proper method of putting the mask on and taking it off (donning and doffing). Please see the video on COVID -19 landing page on iHumber. You may also consult with your respective CPL.
 - For those SPV who feel they do not need to use 2 masks per day, please help us conserve PPE as much as possible by using only one mask and wearing the second mask on your next shift.
 - **Please note:** Procedure masks can be worn all day even in the instances that SPV enter a patient room, unless the patient requires precautions that call for an N95 mask.
 - For those procedures that require use of an N95 mask, SPV should remove their procedure mask and preserve it, prior to donning the N95 mask. Once the N95 mask is no longer needed, SPV should remove and discard the N95 mask, sanitize their hands and put the surgical mask they preserved back on.
 - Used masks can be thrown into the garbage at the end of each shift and do not need to be disposed of in any special manner.

- All SPV in patient-facing roles will also be provided with one pair of goggles to be used as eye protection. Please write your name on the goggles and store them in a clean, safe place for use on every shift. Wash the goggles with warm soapy water at the beginning and end of each shift.
- The safety of the HRH community is our priority and we will continue to evaluate our process as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to evolve. If you have any questions, please speak with your manager or contact Occ. Health & Safety at ext. 82701

2. STAFF PAY FOR SICK TIME DURING COVID-19

- In consideration of the unprecedented nature of this pandemic, Humber River Hospital has decided to augment the rules for pay when staff are unable to work due to COVID-19.
- Specifically, all staff, regardless of **Full-Time, Part-Time or Casual Status**, will be paid for their scheduled shifts in the following situations:
 - Absence due to being sent home by the Occupational Health and Safety department or Public Health Ontario and placed in self-isolation due to exposure to a COVID-19 positive individual
 - Absence due to the presence of symptoms (even mild ones) consistent with COVID-19
 - Absence due to a confirmed positive result of COVID-19
 - Absence due to living with an individual with a confirmed positive result of COVID-19 until that individual has been cleared and is no longer infectious according to Public Health Ontario
- Questions can be directed to Adrian DiLullo, Director of Employee and Labour Relations at adilullo@hrh.ca

3. RESULTS FOR HRH SPV TESTING AT COVID-19 ASSESSMENT CENTRE

- The high volume of COVID-19 tests conducted at the Public Health Ontario laboratory is having an impact on turn around times for results for both SPV and patients. Currently, results can take between 4-10 days.
- While an effort is being made to ensure the most vulnerable, including in-patients and hospital SPV will be prioritized first, HRH is working in conjunction with Mount Sinai Hospital in Toronto to help reduce turn around times.
- As of March 19, 2020, HRH is prioritizing and sending SPV samples to Mount Sinai Hospital for testing, reducing the turn around time for results to 24 – 36 hours.
- Once results are available, they are available on My Humber Health – our patient portal. SPV and patients who have registered for the patient portal can access their results on the portal. Public Health will release the results to patients.

4. COVID-19 VIRTUAL TOWN HALL FOR SPV ON MARCH 24, 2020 AT NOON

- We know that information and updates on COVID-19 is changing frequently and quickly. As a result, we will be hosting COVID-19 Virtual Town Halls to update all SPV on a regular basis about new guidelines, policies and the latest information available. Please join Barbara Collins, President & CEO, tomorrow, March 24, 2020 from 12 – 1 pm. Meeting request will be send out in the morning.

5. TOTALLY KIDS CLINIC IS NOW CLOSED

- In an effort to minimize the number of patients and visitors in the building due to COVID-19, we will be temporarily closing the Totally Kids Clinic. Children who require emergency services should be directed to the Emergency Department.