

## Memo of the President & CEO and the Chief of Staff

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**Date:** January 2, 2021

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Unfortunately, as we feared and predicted, the COVID-19 virus mutation first discovered in the UK has now been located in Ontario, other provinces and USA. Modelling and epidemiological studies suggest that this COVID-19 variant can spread easier and faster.

Due to this and out of an abundance of caution **effective Saturday, January 2, 2021:**

1. **All STAFF** are to wear both hospital supplied medical grade masks (no cloth masks) and eye protection (eye glasses are not considered to be eye protection) when entering the hospital. For those staff who do not currently have a medical mask, face shield or other eye protection (goggles, safety glasses) face shields will be available at the entrances to the hospital. Masks and eye protection protect the wearer and those around them from droplet spread of the virus.
2. **All OUTPATIENTS AND VISITORS** will be required to wear medical grade masks (no cloth masks) upon entry to the hospital. Visitors and outpatients will be offered a face shield at the entrance but it is not mandatory unless they are visiting a patient in a room. All visitors are required to wear a face shield in addition to a mask while visiting a patient. Face shields will be provided to visitors on entry to hospital or on the unit. All PATIENTS are required to wear a mask when not in their bedspace unless not able due to medical condition. Healthcare providers are encouraged to have the patient mask if able during care episodes/when within 2 metres/6 feet of patient. Please refer to our policy regarding these issues and limited exemptions for patient/visitors not to wear a mask (this policy is being changed to reflect the face shield requirement) [View the COVID-19 Universal PPE Policy](#).

Eye protection and masks may only be removed for eating and drinking. While eating and drinking you need to be physically distanced (2 metres/6 feet) at a minimum from others.

We appreciate staff may be removing the face shields/goggles in order to clear fog and/or for comfort at certain times. Again, when you do this please do so standing 2 metres/6 feet away from anyone, and do not remove in patient rooms.



Face Shields/Goggles/Safety Glasses can be re-used with proper care. Face shield/Goggle/Safety Glasses care:

1. Label your eye protection with your name. This is yours to keep and clean.
2. If goggles or shield are visibly soiled, clean first with hydrogen peroxide wipe and then water.
3. Store your face shield in a secure location to prevent
4. damage (i.e. home, locker, leave in car).
5. ALWAYS perform hand hygiene BEFORE removing eye protection and AFTER.

For direct patient care, additional PPE such as gloves and gown may be required, staff are to conduct a point of care risk assessment and refer to posted precaution signs.

In the event of an aerosol generating procedure being performed an N95 should be used instead of a medical mask in addition to eye protection and other PPE, i.e. gown/gloves.

