

Leamington Mennonite Home
Long Term Care

**INFECTION CONTROL
POLICY AND PROCEDURE**

CATEGORY: Precautions	SUBJECT: Universal Masking – COVID-19	SECTION: G POLICY: 20
DATE: July 12, 2022	Administrator's Signature: _____ <i>J. M.</i>	
REVISION DATES: September 21, 2023	IPAC Lead's Signature: _____ <i>L. Coppola, RN.</i>	

UNIVERSAL MASKING – COVID-19

POLICY:

SARS-CoV-2 is transmitted between individuals through close contact and droplets. Universal masking means the process of always wearing a face mask when indoors that covers an individual's nose and mouth, thereby reducing transmission of large respiratory droplets to others while talking, coughing, or sneezing.

When directed by Public Health staff and visitors must comply with universal masking and always wear a surgical/procedural mask while in the Home.

The Home will implement this policy for staff and visitors based on a Point-of-Care Risk Assessment (PCRA) done by the DNPC and/or IPAC Lead. The PCRA determines the appropriate interventions and PPE required for interaction with residents and their environment guided by evidence-based practices and clinical and professional judgement to prevent the spread of Covid 19.

It is recommended that residents who are able, wear surgical/procedural mask or face covering while in common indoor areas, as tolerated.

Exceptions to universal masking requirements:

- Children who are younger than 2 years of age.
- Residents having a medical condition where the risks outweigh the benefits of wearing a surgical/procedural mask. Staff will try to encourage residents to wear a mask in common areas, as tolerated.
- Any individual who is being accommodated in Accordance with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 or the Ontario Human Rights Code
- If entertainment provided by a live performer (a general visitor) that requires the removal of their mask prior to performing their talent.

Staff and visitors must also follow additional precautions, including the use of other personal protective equipment (PPE) such as gowns, eye protection, and gloves when indicated.

PROCEDURE:

The Staff will:

- 1) On entry to the Home, perform hand hygiene using alcohol-based hand rub (ABHR) and apply a surgical/procedural mask.
- 2) Apply a new surgical/procedural mask every time mask is removed (during mealtime, break, when N95 required for contact precaution rooms) and when mask is soiled, moist, or compromised.
- 3) On exit from the Home, remove surgical/procedural mask and perform hand hygiene using ABHR.

The Visitor will:

- 1) On entry to the Home, perform hand hygiene using ABHR and apply a surgical/procedural mask.
- 2) Indoor visits:
 - a. Always wear surgical/ mask while in the common areas of the Home.
 - b. Apply a new surgical/procedural mask every time mask is removed (i.e., during mealtime), and when mask is soiled, moist, or compromised.
 - c. Visitors may remove their mask in resident rooms as long as it is only the visitor and the resident in the area.
 - d. Upon exit from the Home, remove surgical/procedural mask and perform hand hygiene using ABHR.
- 3) Outdoor visits: surgical/procedural not required but encouraged as an additional layer of protection against COVID-19.

The Home will provide surgical/procedural masks or N95 masks to staff and visitors who wish to wear even when mandatory use is not in place.