

Leamington Mennonite Home
Long Term Care

**INFECTION CONTROL
POLICY AND PROCEDURE**

CATEGORY: Precautions	SUBJECT: Masks, Eye Protection, & Face Shields	SECTION: G POLICY: 6
DATE: July 12, 2022	Administrator's Signature: _____ <i>J. M.</i>	
REVISION DATES: November 2023	IPAC Lead's Signature: _____ <i>L. Coppola, RN.</i>	

MASKS, EYE PROTECTION, & FACE SHIELDS

POLICY:

Masks, eye protection, and/or face shields will be worn when appropriate to protect the mucous membranes of the eyes, nose, and mouth when it is anticipated that procedures and care activities are likely to generate splashes or sprays of blood, body fluids, secretions, or excretions, or are within two metres of a coughing resident.

A mask and eye protection must be worn by any individual who is within two (2) metres of a resident on Droplet Precautions.

GUIDELINES:

Masks:

- Masks must be worn:
 - By staff when engaged in procedures requiring sterile technique to protect residents from exposure to infectious agents carried in the staff's mouth or nose.
 - By coughing or sneezing residents when outside their room, if tolerated, to limit dissemination of infectious respiratory secretions from the resident to others.
 - By staff and visitors when indoors as per provincial directives.
- Select a mask appropriate to the activity.
- Mask must fit securely over the nose and mouth.
- Change mask if it becomes wet.
- Do not touch mask while wearing it.
- Remove mask correctly immediately after completion of task and discard into appropriate waste receptacle.
- Do not allow mask to hang or dangle around the neck.
- Clean hands after removing mask.
- Do not reuse disposable masks.
- Do not fold the mask or put it in a pocket for later use.

Eye Protection:

- Eye protection includes:
 - Safety glasses
 - Safety goggles

- Face shields
- Visors attached to masks
- If using reusable eye protection, clean it prior to use.
- Remove eye protection immediately after the task for which it was used and discard into waste receptacle or place in appropriate receptacle for cleaning.
- Eye protection is chosen specifically for the task and depends on:
 - The type of activity and risk exposure.
 - The circumstances of the exposure (e.g., droplet exposure versus sprays or splashes of fluids).
 - Other personal protective equipment used.
 - Personal vision needs.
- Criteria for selecting eye protection includes:
 - Eye protection must provide a barrier to splashes from the side.
 - Eye protection may be single use disposable or washable before reuse.
- Prescription glasses are not acceptable by themselves as eye protection; they may be worn underneath face shields and some types of eyewear.

Face Shields:

- Face shields provide protection to the face and eyes from sprays and splashes.
- Face shields are not a replacement for masks when exposure to droplets when precautions are in place.