

Leamington Mennonite Home  
Long Term Care

**INFECTION CONTROL  
POLICY AND PROCEDURE**

<b>CATEGORY:</b> Precautions	<b>SUBJECT:</b> Enhanced Masking – COVID-19	<b>SECTION:</b> G <b>POLICY:</b> 21
<b>DATE:</b> November 7, 2023	<b>Administrator's Signature:</b> _____ <i>J. M.</i>	
<b>REVISION DATES:</b>	<b>IPAC Lead's Signature:</b> _____ <i>L. Coppola, RN.</i>	

**ENHANCED 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.

The Leamington Mennonite Home will comply with the **enhanced masking guidelines for non outbreak** situations as directed by the Ministry of Health(MOH).

All staff, students, support workers, and volunteers are required to wear a mask within the facility when enhanced masking has been implemented by the MOH.

All visitors and caregivers are to wear a mask indoors except when with the resident in the resident's room or when eating or drinking with a resident in communal spaces. If a resident in a shared room is uncomfortable with others removing their mask, the Home will provide a space for visiting without masks.

Exceptions to enhanced masking requirements:

- Children who are younger than 2 years of age.
- Any individual who is being accommodated in Accordance with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 or the Ontario Human Rights Code

**PROCEDURE:**

The Staff, Student's, Support Workers, and Volunteers 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. Apply a surgical/procedural mask while in the Home.
  - b. Apply a new surgical/procedural mask every time mask is removed and when mask is soiled, moist, or compromised.
  - c. Visitors may remove their mask in resident rooms and when sharing a meal with a resident in a communal dining area.
  - d. Upon exit from the Home, remove surgical/procedural mask and perform hand hygiene using ABHR.
- 3) Outdoor visits: mask not required but encouraged as an additional layer of protection against COVID-19.

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.