



North Centennial Manor Update

Enhanced Masking in Long-Term Care Homes

Effective November 7th, 2023

Further to the memo dated October 6, 2023 on readiness for the respiratory season, the Long-Term Care Operations Division is advising us of changes to **enhance masking** to *optimize health and safety* in long-term care homes (LTCHs) while balancing the impact on resident and staff well-being.

Recent trends have shown a moderate to high level of community transmission of COVID-19 and an increase in COVID-19 outbreaks in LTCHs, with an increased risk of hospitalization amongst residents. It is projected that COVID-19 activity may peak in the next few weeks, around the same time it is anticipated that influenza and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) will rise.

Based on the advice of the Chief Medical Officer of Health, the following **enhanced masking measures for non-outbreak** situations are being put into effect in LTCHs:

- **Requiring** staff, students, support workers, and volunteers to wear a mask when in resident areas indoors, and
- **Strongly** recommending visitors and caregivers to wear a mask in resident areas 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, homes are encouraged to designate a space to enable the roommate to have visitors without masking.

Enhanced masking requirements will be reassessed once the current COVID-19 wave and other respiratory virus activity have declined.

As per the Ministry of Long-Term Care Guidelines