

SUBJECT: Infection Control Procedures

FROM: COVID Joint Reponse Team

DATE: February 27, 2021 | 10:58 p.m.

The following message is approved for distribution to all Health PEI staff and physicians by Marion Dowling and Corinne Rowsell, COVID-19 Joint response Team Co-Leads. Please post for those without email access.

Today the Chief Public Health Officer announced new cases of COVID-19 on Prince Edward Island, bringing the number of current active cases to 13. Due to the current outbreak of COVID-19 on PEI a new circuit breaker has been announced. Several community locations have been identified as [possible exposure sites](#).

With the increasing number of exposure sites identified there is increased risk of infection for all Islanders, and this means the health system must take additional measures to limit the spread of the virus to protect patients, our staff and physicians.

Beginning immediately, the following measures are being taken:

- **Emergency Department and Labour and Delivery** staff and physicians across Health PEI with direct patient contact are required to wear eye protection during their shift, along with their medical masks. Face shields or goggles can be used for eye protection. Regular eye glasses are not sufficient.
- Staff in other parts of the hospital should do a point of care risk assessment and wear eye protection if necessary.
- No additional swabbing/testing of patients is recommended at this time. Please [follow testing guidelines](#), which are attached to this email.
- There are no changes to our visitor policy at this time.

Screening for Health Care Workers

Health Care Workers are required to monitor for any [symptoms of COVID-19](#). If any symptoms develop, they are to wash their hands, leave work as soon as possible, and get tested. They should not return to work until they receive a negative test result and feel well.

Health Care Workers who may have been at one of [the public exposure locations](#) during the specified time frames or who have been notified by Public Health that they are close contact of a positive case are to follow public health direction, including getting tested for COVID-19 and self-isolating as directed. They must notify their manager or supervisor of their situation and they must not report to work until further directed.

PPE and Health Care Worker exposure during care

We have not had any COVID-19 patients in our hospitals. With the new cluster of cases, this may change, however at this time all cases are either asymptomatic or have mild symptoms, and they are self-isolating and being monitored every day by public health. We know that continued screening and attention to the infection prevention and control measures that are in place will help protect against COVID-19.

For clarity, as a health care worker, caring for a COVID-19 positive patient does not constitute a COVID-19 exposure as long as the required PPE protocols and infection control measures are followed.

PPE is available to all health care workers and additional PPE can be ordered through your PPE champions.

As further information becomes available, it will be provided to all staff and physicians via the COVID-19JRT@ihis.org email.

Please monitor your email or normal site COVID information sources for updates as the situation may change frequently.