

Health PEI Easement of COVID-19 Measures

Long Term Care

April 18, 2023

Masking

Universal masking is no longer required; staff/residents/partners in care/visitors may continue to universally mask if they choose to. Masks should remain available at all entrances for those who choose to continue to mask.

Point of care risk assessment (PCRA) should be completed with each resident interaction to determine the required personal protective equipment for the interaction.

Visitors

Please follow the current visitor policy located on [MedWorxx](#).

Partners in Care/Visitors entering facilities will continue to be actively screened upon entry to all facilities. This measure will be lifted once signage for passive screening has been delivered and put in place in all facilities.

Cohorts

Cohorts or Neighborhoods are IPAC best practice following the small home model (CSAZ8004:22), whereas the communal activities of day to day living involves a limited number of residents. Cohorts should remain physically distanced from other cohorts.

Resident cohorts should have a maximum of 10-12 residents per cohort from the same household and should be consistent. Changes only made when necessary. Changes must be tracked for contact tracing purposes.

Cohorts should be in place for all facility activities, examples include dining, entertainment and recreational drives.

Protecting All Residents

Residents who go out on pass should be monitored for symptoms. If symptoms develop, initiate Droplet/Contact precautions and test for FLUVID/RSV (if available). If not available, then test for COVID only.

Health PEI

Updated April 18, 2023

Facilities must monitor rates of COVID-19 vaccination among residents and should ensure ongoing access and timely administration of COVID-19 vaccine, including boosters for residents and staff.

Partners in Care/Visitors entering facilities will continue to be actively screened upon entry to all facilities. This measure will be lifted once signage for passive screening has been delivered and put in place in all facilities.

Admissions

New residents who are asymptomatic do NOT require testing. Monitor all new residents for symptoms.

Symptomatic residents may delay admission (if possible) until symptoms are improved and fever free for 24 hours.

Symptomatic Residents

Symptomatic residents are to be placed on Contract/Droplet precautions and tested. If available, symptomatic residents should be tested for FLUVID/RSV. If Influenza and RSV testing has stopped for the current respiratory season, then symptomatic residents only require testing for COVID.

Testing may be either Abbot IDNow or PCR using a NP swab.

Symptomatic and positive COVID-19 residents, tested with Abbot IDNow can initiate access to Paxlovid treatment.

Colville and Riverview Manors can send COVID swabs to KCMH or Souris for testing; as long as it is coordinated with the lab; as the swabs must be processed within 60 minutes from being collected.

Maplewood Manor and Margaret Stewart Ellis Home may send COVID swabs to Western and CHO for testing; as long as it is coordinated with the lab; as the swabs must be processed within 60 minutes from being collected.

Previous Positive Cases

If symptomatic: place on droplet and contact precautions. Precautions may be discontinued when symptoms have resolved, and no other infectious disease diagnosis has been made (e.g. Influenza, RSV).

Management of Positive Cases

Residents diagnosed with COVID should be placed on contact and droplet precautions **for 7 days** following the symptom onset date or the positive test date whichever is earliest AND until resolution of fever for 24 hours without fever reducing medication and symptoms have markedly improved.

Residents who are immunocompromised require 14 days of contact and droplet precautions.

Close Contacts

Day 0 is the last day of exposure to the case.

Close contacts will be tested at time of identification on day 0 and 4. If symptoms develop, test immediately. Close contact testing positive on an Abbot ID Now do not require confirmatory PCR testing.

Close contacts will be placed on contact and droplet precautions for 96 hours. Precautions may be discontinued at day 4 if the resident is asymptomatic and their day 4 test is negative.

All close contact restrictions are removed when the day 4 test is negative.

Close contacts who have had COVID in the past 60 days **do not** require contact and droplet precautions if asymptomatic. Close contacts should still be monitored for symptoms and placed on droplet and contact precautions. (Please see Previous Positive Cases).

Guidance for Entertainment:

Entertainment should be in a designated area which may be outdoors or indoors.

Resident co-horts should be maintained for entertainment activities. Co-horts should remain physically distanced from other cohorts.

Physical distancing (6ft/2meters) must be maintained at all times between residents and entertainers. Entertainers should remain in their designated area for the duration of the provided entertainment.

Entertainers must be well and have no signs of illness. Symptomatic individuals will be excluded from providing services until they are well.

Entertainers must perform hand hygiene upon entry to the home and after the visit at point of exit and when indicated. Clean designated area after entertainment completed.

References:

- HPEI Respiratory Screen (COVID 19/Flu A/B+RSV) Testing; Respiratory Panel Criteria December 2022
- [Visitor policy and protocols for Health PEI facilities, including Long-Term Care facilities | Government of Prince Edward Island \(gpei.ca\)](#)