

MASK POLICY



Workplace masking policy for health-care providers, patients and visitors

This document outlines Island Health and provincial expectations for the use of face masks in the workplace at Island Health. Masking, combined with the safety precautions of physical distancing, excellent hand hygiene, and staying home when unwell, will help to keep health-care workers and our patients, clients, residents and families safe from COVID-19. Questions? Please read our [FAQs](#).

NOTES:

- Failure to comply with the policy may result in corrective action, up to and including termination (excepting legitimate reasons why an employee is unable to follow this direction).
- N95 respirators are to be reserved for AGMPs and where N95s are part of the PPE required for airborne and or specific precautions.

ISLAND HEALTH STAFF, MEDICAL STAFF AND CONTRACTORS			
Environment	Environment Example	Type of Mask	Used by
Health-care facility or care environment (Non-LTC areas)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ALL areas/settings where care, counsel and/or assessments are provided across the health authority • ALL settings where staff and medical staff interact with patients, clients, residents, families and/or members of the public 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medical-grade mask • N95 or an approved reusable respirator for AGMPs or where required for airborne or specific precautions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All staff, medical staff and contracted service providers • See also PPE Guidelines for Care Providers
Administrative areas <u>within</u> a care facility	Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Admin offices (i.e. CNE or leader) • Education or meeting rooms on a unit • Administrative wings (clinical and non-clinical) • Libraries • Supportive services • FMO/support areas • Regional laundry plants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medical-grade mask 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All staff, medical staff and contracted service providers

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ISLAND HEALTH STAFF, MEDICAL STAFF AND CONTRACTORS			
Environment	Environment Example	Type of Mask	Used by
Long-Term Care & Assisted Living facilities (Non-Vaccinated staff)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ALL areas/settings where care, counsel and/or assessments are provided across the health authority • ALL settings where staff and medical staff interact with patients, clients, residents, families and/or members of the public 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medical-grade mask • N95 or an approved reusable respirator for AGMPs or where required for airborne or specific precautions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All non-vaccinated staff, medical staff and contracted service providers or those unable to provide proof of vaccination status • See also PPE Guidelines for Care Providers
Long-Term Care & Assisted Living facilities (Fully vaccinated staff able to provide proof of vaccination status)*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where clinically indicated for residents on additional precautions; when there is a risk of contamination due to splashing of body fluids; required based on their point-of-care risk assessment (PCRA) or to protect against the normal hazards in their regular work - medical-grade mask • Otherwise no mask required 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All fully vaccinated staff, medical staff and contracted service providers

* Vaccinated is defined as having had 2 doses of COVID-19 Vaccine plus a duration of 14 days following second dose.

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ISLAND HEALTH STAFF, MEDICAL STAFF AND CONTRACTORS			
Environment	Environment Example	Type of Mask	Used by
Administrative areas <u>not</u> located in a care facility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Corporate services where care is not provided Examples: Administration Building (formerly Begbie Hall), Aulds Road, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Non-medical, 3-layer cloth masks can be worn when 2-metres distance cannot be maintained Medical-grade masks must be worn when visiting or transitioning through a care facility 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All staff, medical staff and contracted service providers
Common areas	<p>Areas where staff, medical staff, patients, clients, residents, families and/or members of the public are present, e.g.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> hospital atrium hallways coffee shops elevators washrooms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medical-grade masks Medical-grade mask can be removed for eating or drinking, while maintaining 2-metres distance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All staff, medical staff and contracted service providers
VISITORS			
Environment	Environment Example	Type of Mask	Used by
Health-care facility or care environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> When entering and moving around any health care facility, including clinical and non-clinical areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medical-grade masks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All visitors
Long-Term Care & Assisted Living facilities (fully vaccinated)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> When entering and moving through the facility and in common areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medical-grade masks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fully immunized visitors
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> When entering and for the duration of the visit, including when in direct contact with the person they are visiting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medical-grade masks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partially vaccinated or unvaccinated visitors

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PATIENTS			
Environment	Environment Example	Type of Mask	Used by
Healthcare facility or care environment EXCLUDED – Long-Term Care and Assisted Living settings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During transport within a healthcare facility • When moving around a healthcare facility • While in a waiting area (ED or any department) • While in any bed space that is only separated by a curtain in the ED • Actively coughing in a multi-bed room on droplet or contact/droplet precautions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ single room should be prioritised where possible, see bed placement for patients on additional precautions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medical-grade mask 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patients

RESOURCES:

- [PPE Guidelines](#)
- Masking [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- Masking [Posters for Facilities](#) (*scroll to 'Signage' – order via [print services](#)*)
- Eye Protection [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- BCCDC – [Face Masks: How are they different](#)
- World Health Organization – Poster: [How to Wear a Medical Mask Safely](#)
- Health Canada – [Appropriate Use of Non-Medical Mask or Face Covering](#)
- Health Canada – Poster: [How to Safely Use a Non-Medical Mask](#)