

Memo

To: All Employees

From: Management Committee

Date: May 05, 2023

Re: COVID Guidelines

Please see below the recent changes to the COVID guidelines and case management, based on the recent Public Health Guidelines and recommended best practices. These changes will be effective May 08, 2023

Recent changes re COVID Guidelines:

- Active screening will no longer be required for staff, students, volunteers, essential visitors, and general visitors as well as residents returning from absence. All facilities must have a signage describing symptoms of covid 19 so all person(s) entering the premises can do a passive screening/ self-assessment before entering the facility. Staff and visitors are no longer required to complete screening form; however, a log needs to be maintained for anyone who enters the facility. Signage is attached to put **inside and outside** the premises.
- Rapid Tests will no longer be required for staff or visitors as part of screening to start their shifts/ enter the premises. Staff who are symptomatic will be required to get a PCR test from Hospitals or Public Health approved sites.
- Masking will be optional, except when working with people supported who are symptomatic, or have symptoms of any viral infection. The Association will continue to provide masks for staff who would like to continue wearing masks. Masks can be ordered through Lissa Dwyer at ldwyer@communitylivingyorksouth.ca
- All new staff will continue to be fitted for N 95, should that be required in case of an outbreak.
- Physical distancing will no longer be required unless in case of an outbreak, at which time, all COVID protocols as outlined by Public Health will apply.

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- Residents should be assessed at least once daily to identify new or worsening symptoms of COVID-19.

Important Reminders:

- 1. If an employee becomes ill with COVID**, he/she must self-isolate at home and can return to work after 10 days.
- 2. If an employee has a close contact and high-risk exposure:**

An employee who has a high-risk exposure to a confirmed positive COVID-19 case/ person with COVID symptoms/ positive COVID test result. High risk exposure means you were less than two (2) meters away, had at least 15 minutes of exposure or multiple shorter lengths of time **without PPE**

2 (a) What to do:

- On-going exposure –the COVID positive person lives with you—PCR test Immediately and repeat on day five (5)
 - One (1) time exposure- PCR testing on day five (5)
- 3. An employee with a close contact (a COVID positive lives with you) can continue to work under the following conditions:**
 - Self- monitor symptoms for ten (10) days (as well as PCR testing- Please see 2(a))
 - Passive screening prior to coming for shift.
 - 4. Sickness/ Symptomatic cases:** Symptomatic staff or visitors must not be permitted entry into the home. Staff and visitors who become symptomatic while at the home must leave immediately and be directed to self-isolate at their own home, seek medical assessment as required, and be encouraged to get tested for COVID-19 using a laboratory-based molecular test.
 - 5. If someone in the home is sick**, please remember that visitors are not allowed e.g.: contractors. Essential visitors can continue to visit as long as they are aware that a confirmed or probable case of COVID may be present in the home. E.g.: doctors, nurses

6. Hand hygiene is a critical component in preventing the transmission of infectious diseases. Please ensure that you follow hand hygiene at all times and not just in case of an outbreak.
7. **COVID-19 vaccination** is one of the most effective ways to help prevent severe illness and death due to COVID-19. We highly encourage clients/residents, staff, caregivers and visitors to remain up-to-date with their COVID-19 vaccinations

Please reach out to your Program Manager if you have any questions regarding this Memo.