

UPDATE: STAFF USE OF PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT IN GROUP HOMES

Personal Protective Equipment Recommendations for Staff

In an abundance of caution, given the amount of confirmed COVID-19 cases in institutional/live-in settings in York Region, and to be in line with current staff procedures in other institutional settings, group living residences are asked to immediately implement the following personal protective equipment (PPE) procedures for staff:

- All staff and essential visitors wear surgical/procedure masks **at all times** for the duration of full shifts or visits in the group living residence – **this is required regardless of whether the residence is in outbreak or not**
- During breaks, staff may remove their surgical/procedure mask but must remain 2 metres away from other staff to continue to practice physical distancing
- Change their surgical/procedure mask if it becomes damp or soiled (see “Conserving Masks” below)
- Continue to use Droplet and Contact Precautions for supporting residents with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 which includes:
 - Facial protection such as surgical masks and N95 respirators (N95 respirators are not needed unless performing an aerosol generating procedure)
 - Eye protection such as safety glasses, face shields or masks with visor attachments,
 - Gloves
 - Isolation gown

York Region Public Health will be supplying group homes with an initial supply of surgical/procedural masks in order to augment these new procedures. We will be delivering these masks in the next few days.

The following resources provide direction on putting on (donning) and taking off (doffing) PPE:

- [Link to PPE Poster](#)
- [Putting on and taking of PPE](#)
- [Poster on how to wear a mask](#)
- [Visit this link for a video on removing PPE safely](#)

Conserving Masks

In an effort to make as many surgical/procedural masks available to staff supporting residents in this setting, York Region Public Health will be looking into a recycling process. To this end, we ask that:

PUBLIC HEALTH

1-877-464-9675 TTY 1-866-512-6228

york.ca/covid19

April 11, 2020 - information may be subject to change



- Used surgical/procedural masks are discarded into a separate lined garbage bin
- Once bag is full, secure closed and label with a sign “Do Not Use”
- Store in an appropriate place
- York Region Public Health will provide further instruction once a process is confirmed

Contact Public Health

If a case of COVID-19 is suspected, contact York Region Public Health at 1-800-361-5653.