

## IPAC Preventative Measures

Updated: December 23, 2024

These measures are informed by the guidance of Public Health, Ministry of Health, and Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services.

### Screening

#### **CLGW Employees**

Self-check for symptoms before attending your shift.

#### **People Supported:**

If the person is feeling unwell or showing symptoms of illness, has had high risk exposure, is living in an active outbreak, or has tested positive for COVID, the Daily Health Check form (SA33c) and the protocol on the form must be completed.

### Rapid Antigen Testing

#### **CLGW Employees**

Rapid Antigen Tests remain available for employees. Employees should test themselves if they have symptoms of illness. They should also test if they have had an exposure to someone who has tested positive to COVID or is symptomatic, or if they are working in an outbreak.

#### **Visitors, volunteers, students and third-party contractors**

Not required.

#### **People Supported**

If a person supported shows signs or symptoms or has had an exposure, follow protocol Daily Health Check Form (SA33c) and try to perform a Rapid Antigen Test.

### Masking

CLGW has adopted a mask optional policy (G195)

What this means:

- A person's choice to wear a mask during everyday interactions will be honoured and respected without question.
- Masks will continue to be provided and accessible at all locations or people may choose to provide their own mask.

- Follow proper mask hygiene practices, including performing hand hygiene before applying and removing a mask, discarding used masks immediately, wearing the mask appropriately, and performing hand hygiene if you must touch your mask.
- If you are asked to remove your mask by a person at CLGW, you have the right to refuse and are not required to explain why you prefer to wear a mask.
- **As an employee**, there are health and safety and IPAC scenarios where masking will still be required (such as outbreak management, as directed in the Return to Work Guidelines, and when interacting with certain chemicals). The Mask-Optional Policy is for everyday interactions and does not take precedent over health and safety or IPAC personal protective equipment requirements.

## Point of Care Risk Assessment (PCRA)

Employees are encouraged to do a point of care risk assessment before being in close proximity with people supported. During the PCRA, you should identify if a mask or additional Personal Protective Equipment is required to protect the respiratory tract or other areas of the body when there is a risk of exposure to splashes or droplets of bodily fluids.

See attached PCRA info and flowchart from Public Health.

### Hand Hygiene:

Practice hand hygiene often. Wash hands when entering location, before/after eating or drinking, before/after any tasks, before/after interactions with other people, before/after donning/doffing a mask. If hand washing isn't available, use sanitizer.

Face shields or eye protection, and gowns are required when:

- Performing activities where you may be at risk of being in contact or splashed with bodily fluids, such as showering or bathing someone who may be incontinent.
- Face shields/eye protection should be donned whenever there is a risk of getting bodily fluids in your face or eyes, such as if someone is sneezing or coughing, or if you're supporting someone with oral hygiene, or feeding someone and there's a risk of bodily fluid excretion.
- Gowns should be donned whenever there is a risk of getting bodily fluids on your clothing, such as when assisting in the bathroom including showering or bathing.
- Gloves should be worn anytime there is a risk of contaminating your hands.

## High-touch surfaces, cleaning and disinfecting

If your location is experiencing an active outbreak, if a person tests positive or has a high-risk exposure, increased cleaning is required. Print Isolation/Outbreak Droplet/Contact Cleaning Checklist (SA32) and follow instructions.

This includes:

- Frequent cleaning of frequently touched surfaces and objects.
- Shared equipment/surfaces/rooms must be cleaned and disinfected after each use (e.g., toilets, showers, staff desk, keyboard, remote, blood pressure cuff, pens, etc.).
- Ensure HEPA Air Purifiers are in the most appropriate area and use in an outbreak situation.
- Any additional measures to increase air circulation are encouraged (such as stove fans, bathroom fans, the furnace fan should be on at all times even when not heating or cooling, open windows to provide fresh air within the homes, worksites and vehicles).

## Community-based activities

Community-based activities for people supported are permitted and encouraged. The people we support should be going out and attending activities in our communities as safely as they can.

Assess risk ahead of time using the three C's where COVID can spread easily: crowded spaces; close-contact settings; confined and enclosed spaces with poor ventilation.