



November 3, 2023

UPDATE TO ALL FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Hello, we have received new Ministry of Long Term Care directives regarding changes to requirements for wearing masks which must be implemented no later than Tuesday November 7.

The Directive states:

For staff, students, volunteers, and support workers:

- *Masks are required to be worn in all resident areas indoors.*

For caregivers and visitors:

- *Strongly recommending visitors and caregivers to mask in resident areas indoors except when with the resident in the resident's room or when eating or drinking with a resident in communal spaces.*

Residents in Shared Rooms:

- *If a resident in a shared room is uncomfortable with others removing their mask, homes are encouraged to designate a space to enable the roommate to have visitors without masking.*

St. Pat's will be making these changes for Tuesday November 7 to allow some time to get the necessary arrangements in place. Please feel free to wear a mask now if you would prefer.

What does this mean?

- Staff, students, volunteers and support workers will be required to wear masks on each resident home area.
- Staff, students, volunteers and support workers are required to wear a mask in any gathering of residents even off of the home area such as during Mass, a recreation program in the Gathering Place or other areas. Masks will not be required in the lobby or in offices at this time.
- Although it is not a directive from the Ministry, we know that visitors and caregivers, family and friends want to keep residents safe. You are strongly encouraged to wear a mask when on a resident home area. You may remove your mask when alone in the resident's room.
- Masks will be available at the main entrance as well as the entrance to each resident home area as of Tuesday November 7. The masks that we currently have in stock have a visor attached to them. It is not required to wear eye protection at this time as we are not in an outbreak. The visor can be removed if you prefer.

Take care and have a good weekend,

Janet Morris

President and CEO