

Coronavirus - Frequently Asked Questions

This FAQ is created to answer frequently asked questions about COVID-19. We will update this document regularly based on new questions that will arise. **Updates will be highlighted.**

Please feel free to also reference our [Inpatient Staff Support FAQ](#) and our [Recovery planning decisions document](#).

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Recovery planning

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Where can I find recovery decisions and support documents?

With many new decisions and communications circulating in relation to our recovery efforts, we have created a new sub-section of the [COVID-19: Resources for Staff web page](#). On this page, there are several documents that outline how the recovery process has unfolded, and there are also guidelines on how [workstations will be configured](#) once staff return to the hospital and what steps staff should take as they [await COVID-19 test results and self-isolate](#).

Holland Bloorview procedures

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What proactive measures is Holland Bloorview taking to prevent the spread of viruses?

Holland Bloorview's infection prevention and control (IPAC) team is actively monitoring the COVID-19 outbreak, working closely with public health agencies and the Ministry of Health to follow all appropriate guidelines to ensure the safety of our clients, families, volunteers, visitors and staff.

In addition, we're doing the following:

- **Active screening at the door for hospital staff, clients, families and visitors**
 - Effective August 24, all staff, volunteers, learners, clients and families are asked to use the main hospital entrance for screening. Masks must be worn prior to entering the hospital. When entering the main lobby between 6 and 10 a.m., staff will be directed toward specific booths in the atrium to minimize contact with clients and family caregivers. After 10 a.m., booths 1 and 2 will be used for clients, and booth 3 will be used for staff.
 - During this time, we're asking everyone to exit the building using the door by the pool window on Level 1. The main doors can be used at any time as an accessible exit or for Wheel-Trans pick up or drop off.
 - Please check the 'Holland Bloorview masking policy' section for masking information.
 - As a general safety measure, **all staff MUST wear Holland Bloorview ID badge** at all times.
- **Cancelled community programming:** Out of abundance of caution and in line with overall COVID-19 prevention measures, the hospital has cancelled most on-site appointments, services and community programs until further notice. Programs and services will gradually re-open in alignment with the province's re-opening phases and guidance.
- **Travel restrictions and self isolation requirements**

If you have travelled out of the country since March 13, assume you will be self-isolating for 14 days, UNLESS you receive a call from your manager to report to duty.

- **Family and caregiver presence policy restrictions:**

As we have throughout the pandemic, Holland Bloorview has been closely monitoring the number of COVID-19 cases in Toronto and surrounding area. The number of daily new cases in Toronto is now remaining steadily below 100. We've also seen a consistent reduction in outbreaks across the province in long-term care homes and hospitals. We also know from listening to families that in-person caregiver support is crucial for the well-being of both our clients and their families, and the restrictions to caregiver presence, while necessary because of COVID-19, have been difficult for some. With these facts in mind, we are pleased to announce substantial changes to our caregiver presence policy that allow for greater onsite presence and flexibility **as of July 15**. In summary:

- 3 caregivers can now be designated per client, up from 2. This means up to 3 individuals over the age of 16 may be designated to be the primary bedside support for each client. All must still undergo screening. Inpatient families must provide their care team with the third caregiver's information.
- 2 caregivers can now be on-site, up from 1. This means up to 2 designated caregivers over the age of 16 can be onsite to visit their child at any given time (except overnight, see below)
- 1 caregiver may remain overnight after 11 p.m. No change from current practice.

We'll continue to have daily screening, masking and swabbing where necessary to ensure overall safety for our clients, families and staff. Overall, we hope these changes will reduce stress on children and their caregivers, allow easier handover between caregivers, facilitate training and allow for easier participation in family/team meetings.

- **Installation of laminate barriers**

- Beginning Thursday, August 20, laminate barriers will be installed at five reception areas across the hospital, including main reception, CFIC, second floor appointment services, dental reception and Orthotics and Prosthetics. These barriers will serve as an additional measure to ensure the safety of our staff and clients, and are also being installed to ensure no damage is done to the surfaces of our existing desks.

What will happen if a client shows symptoms of COVID-19 or we get a confirmed case of COVID-19 at Holland Bloorview?

In the event that a client exhibit symptoms of COVID-19, we would follow our standard outbreak procedures.

Any client with respiratory symptoms would be placed in contact/droplet precautions OR contact/droplet/airborne precautions if the client was on CCC and needed tracheotomy and ventilation support. Any staff member that would be working with the client will be wearing appropriate PPE. Swabs

would be taken and sent for testing to confirm positive or negative for the virus. **Only** staff providing direct care to the client would be allowed in the room and be provided appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) to ensure they can continue to provide care safely.

If a client does test positive for COVID-19, infection control would inform key individuals and contact Toronto Public Health. The client would be moved to an isolation room (the client would already be in an isolation room so we wouldn't move after the fact so this can come out) Toronto Public Health would advise us as to whether staff that have been in close contact with the client, or other clients are eligible for testing. All therapies will be cancelled for the client. Should the client's health status warrant it, we may transfer them to SickKids or Sunnybrook, depending on their age.

If a staff member tests positive:

- Occupational Health would contact key individuals including Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) and Toronto Public Health
- Infection Control would assist with contact tracing for clients who have been in contact with the staff member
- Occupational Health would work with the operations manager to also conduct contact tracing to determine if anyone else came into contact with the staff member
- Staff member would be instructed to self-isolate for 14 days if well enough to stay at home
- Toronto Public Health would advise hospital if staff/clinicians/other clients who had close contact with COVID-positive staff member can be tested

Based on direction from public health, they would declare us to be in an outbreak if we have 2 confirmed and related positive cases in a patient, staff, or a combination of both.

What is the likelihood of our hospital accepting patients with COVID-19 from other hospitals to treat them?

The system is working hard to create acute bed capacity and so far those efforts are paying off. There is good capacity should we see a surge in cases. At this moment, we don't anticipate Holland Bloorview becoming a centre for COVID 19 patients but is not out of the realm of possibility.

For the moment, Holland Bloorview continues to receive new inpatients from partner hospitals and the community. We are taking all necessary precautions to prevent potential spread of COVID-19, including testing new clients and their families before arriving to Holland Bloorview.

In cases where this can't be done prior to arriving, we will be isolating the client and their designated family members in a private room until we receive results.

Should one of our inpatients test positive for COVID-19, they will remain in isolation and staff who care for that client will be required to wear full PPE when providing care. Should their health status progress, the client may be transferred to the acute care setting.

What guidance are you providing on meetings at Holland Bloorview?

- Please cancel all unnecessary meetings or consider using virtual options if the meeting cannot be cancelled or rescheduled to a later date.

- When booking meetings, please book a space large enough to ensure physical distancing of at least 2 meters.

Please be advised that visitors will be screened at the door and will be turned away if they are sick or if they've travelled. Please contact all guests in advance so they are aware of this.

Are there any guidelines/policies regarding wearing gloves during covid-19?

There are three instances when gloves should be worn:

- When staff members may come into contact with bodily fluids during provision of care
- Housekeeping staff should wear gloves when cleaning rooms/emptying garbage cans
- Food services staff handling and serving food

Note: We discourage the use of gloves outside of these circumstances as they have the potential to be a transmitter of virus spread if not used properly.

Always remember to practice good hand hygiene.

Can I request for a hand sanitizer bottle for my work station?

Our hand sanitizing supply is limited to common areas and clinical areas. If you would like to buy your own, we recommend hand sanitizers that are at least 70% alcohol and scent free and bring it with you to work for personal use.

I usually park at Bellwood. Can I come to the main lot?

Effective September 1, all staff with a Bellwood parking pass who have been parking at the Kilgour lot during the pandemic need to return to the Bellwood lot.

If you park in the Bellwood lot, please reapply your tag to avoid problems. If you have a laminated temporary Kilgour pass, please return it to reception at your earliest convenience.

I don't have a parking pass but am coming in regularly to the hospital as a result of redeployment. Can I get a discounted rate for parking?

For staff who do not have a parking pass and wish to drive to Holland Bloorview and park in the Hospital's main lot, monthly passes are now available for purchase at reception for \$40. This is equivalent to the Bellwood monthly parking pass price. This price is valid for your next purchase and does not apply to previously purchased passes.

If you have questions, please contact Jeffrey Chi at jchi@hollandbloorview.ca.

Will you offer free parking for staff working on-site or a discount to anyone with an existing parking pass that is no longer coming in/working from home?

Unfortunately, we are not providing parking discounts or free parking for existing parking pass holders. Many financial factors come into play including the cancellation of many revenue-generating programs at

the hospital and a substantial investment in technology (increasing virtual private network (VPN) and Citrix access) that allows people to work from home. As well, administration of parking deductions/adjustments would generate additional workload for teams that are already at capacity during the pandemic. It is worth noting that we have one of the lowest parking rates (perhaps the lowest) for Toronto-area hospitals.

Additionally, Holland Bloorview continues to be obligated to pay its regular monthly rent to CAMH, the property owner of the Bellwood lot and operate and maintain the Kilgour lot in normal fashion, irrespective of the number of current users.

Because of COVID-19, we had to change a lot of what we do rapidly. Is the senior management team thinking about how that will affect our workforce going forward? Will there be changes to our work-from-home policy?

This is an important, on-going discussion among the senior management team. A tremendous amount of work has taken place by our IT department, enabling a large majority of employees to work from home and allowing us to be productive and continue to provide the same great care to our clients and families. While nothing will replace the face-to-face interactions with our clients, the pandemic has opened up new ways for all of us to work together while still supporting each other and our clients and families. Updates and results of this discussion will be provided to you when available.

Will there ever be a stage in this crisis where layoffs may occur at Holland Bloorview?

While we can't predict what the future may hold, at this time we are not planning to lay off any employees. For many departments it has been business as usual—the normal accountabilities and responsibilities have continued. We also have many clinical employees providing virtual care to our clients and families, many have been redeployed to our inpatient team and others who have been assisting departments on the delivery of projects and programs.

What is “contact tracing” and when would it be initiated?

Contact tracing refers to determining who has been in contact with a COVID -19 positive person. At Holland Bloorview, contact tracing would be initiated once occupational health and/or infection control knows of a confirmed COVID-19 positive staff/patient/family caregiver.

While keeping the affected individuals' confidentiality/privacy, staff who have been in direct contact (i.e. not wearing appropriate PPE, were standing closer than 2 meters of the individual for longer than 15 minutes, had contact with bodily fluid/droplets, etc.) will be contacted by occupational health to be informed on next steps, including testing.

Part of contact tracing is determining where the individual was in the facility **48 hours** prior to the onset of symptoms. This can be the challenging part of contact tracing. However, if we have a client that is in isolation, we have a log sheet outside the client's room that will help us identify staff and caregivers who may have had contact with the client.

How many positive COVID-19 cases should we have before we are declared to be in an outbreak?

Based on Ontario Public Health directives, we fall under the public acute care guidelines which state that a hospital will need to have two confirmed positive cases in a patient, staff, or a combination of both to be declared in an outbreak.

What does direct care mean?

Direct care is care that is being performed on a client where you are unable to maintain 2 meters (6 feet) of physical distance. This may include nursing procedures, therapy sessions, recreation activities etc.

What should I do if I see concerning community activity in our parking lot?

If you witness community activity in the parking lot that poses safety issues (i.e. too many community members gathered at once, physical distancing rules not respected, family members meeting outside of the exit only doors or visiting by the fence), please contact security at ext. 6101.

How will the [directive](#) for testing in Ontario impact Holland Bloorview? Does that mean that all Holland Bloorview staff should be tested?

If staff members are asymptomatic and wish to get tested, then that is their prerogative. Positive test results would then need to be disclosed immediately to Occupational Health only. The staff member is also required to inform their manager that they will be absent from work due to illness. They are not obligated to share test results with their manager. Occupational Health will only release the name of someone with a positive test to their manager with the employee's permission and if contact tracing is required.

What do I do as I await my test results, or the test results of my child, family member or spouse?

IPAC and occupational health have prepared a [flow chart](#) (on the Resources page below the Frequently Asked Questions section) that outlines different scenarios staff may encounter as they await test results and recommended plans of action. Please refer to this for guidance.

What should we keep in mind when eating outside or going out for a stretch before returning to the building?

- If eating at the picnic tables, physical distancing still applies
- A limit of two people per table is required, seated diagonally from one another
- Masks need to be placed on a clean surface, not directly on the table
- Bring a small, travel-size hand sanitizer with you so you can sanitize your hands before removing your mask, and again after applying the mask when you are done eating
- If you leave the building to go out for a walk, wear a non-medical mask, especially if you cannot keep physical distance from others
- Upon return to the building after a short break, re-screening is required

Can staff or members of the community use the picnic tables at the front of the building to eat lunch or rest?

No. The two picnic tables at the front of the building are reserved for families to have a visit with their loved ones. These visits are being scheduled and should be left vacant as they may be booked.

Should the picnic benches be sanitized with CaviWipes after every use? Will environmental staff disinfect these surfaces?

Picnic tables and the tables in the cafeteria are not cleaned between staff use. The tables in the cafeteria are cleaned daily by environmental services. If there are spills, or if the picnic tables are sticky, environmental services can be called to clean the picnic table by request only.

Is there an elevator capacity as we welcome more people in to our building?

As we welcome more staff members, volunteers, learners, clients and families in to our building, we want to ensure that physical distancing rules can still be followed in common areas. As such, we are implementing an elevator capacity limit to six people at a time.

We ask staff to please give priority to clients and visitors when using the elevators and use the stairs if possible.

In regards to workplace spacing, how are managers preparing for the return of staff?

We understand that coming back to the hospital might be a source of anxiety for some people. To ensure proper spacing in workstations is maintained, "[Return-to-the workplace space guideline](#)" for managers has been created, which will instruct them on making decisions around configuring workspaces with transparency and in unison.

Do the recent changes in provincial regulations for group size indoors, impact group sizes for clinical appointments (i.e. therapy sessions) and staff meetings? What are our occupancy numbers?

The new announcement with regards to gatherings of 10 people indoors and 25 people outdoors is for the community and private households. This is not meant for staff businesses, including hospitals that have strict protocols and screening in place.

With this said, staff should continue to consider room size and physical distancing. For example, the gymnasium would have a larger occupancy number, as it has the space to accommodate more people with physical distancing, compared to a smaller therapy room. We continue to ask clinicians and staff to use their best judgement on size maximums and space.

The general rule is - please book a space large enough to ensure physical distancing of at least two meters. If physical distancing is not possible, then wearing masks/PPE allows clients and staff to be in closer contact.

Case numbers in Ontario are rising—does Holland Bloorview have a plan to address this?

As COVID-19 cases across the country and in Ontario specifically increase, we are actively working on a surge plan that will guide what we do as a hospital should we need to ramp down our on-site activities. Rest assured the situation is being monitored closely.

It's important to remember that far more is known about COVID-19 now than was understood in March. The knowledge we are armed with about how to reduce spread and protect ourselves has allowed us to safely and strategically re-open, offering access and providing care to our clients who rely on it.

When will the foundation return to work on site, and when will donor tours resume?

In September, the foundation began to return to work on site. One to two team members per day have been at the hospital since September 1 (4% of staff), and this will continue until October 30. From November 1 to December 30, the number will increase to five staff members per day (19% of staff).

As activity increases, the foundation will begin to resume donor tours on an exceptional basis. They will include one staff member and a maximum of three donors, all of whom will be pre-screened. They will be physically distanced and masks will be worn. There will be a maximum of three tours per month, down from the usual 15, and they will occur on Tuesdays, Wednesdays or Fridays, and after 9:30 a.m. so as to avoid the screening rush. The third floor inpatient units and Bloorview School Authority will not be visited.

What is Holland Bloorview's procedure for allowing Toronto Synchro to return?

Our long-term association with Toronto Synchro, dating back to 2011, resumed on Sunday, September 20. Going forward, they will bring their athletes into the facility every Sunday from 5 to 8:30 p.m. Please note their coaches and lifeguard attended an in-person training session at our facility on Thursday, September 17 regarding new COVID-19 protocols.

Is Personal Protective Equipment being monitored, and is that information available?

Our Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) levels are being closely monitored. The PPE dashboard is on pause, but it will be restarted if supplies return to low levels (< 3-6 weeks). PPE conservation is still in effect, and we encourage staff to re-use masks, goggles and face shields if they remain suitable for wear. If you have questions regarding PPE, please reach out to your manager.

Are there guidelines for working remotely during a pandemic?

In light of the increased number of staff regularly working from home, our People and Culture team has prepared a document for both employees and leaders on [working remotely during a pandemic](#). It supports the [Thrive Together strategy](#) and aims to optimize workspaces to increase client collaborative space, create more shared and bookable space, and improve staff mobility through greater use of technology. The benefits and challenges are outlined, and it also references another document on [ergonomics and tips](#) to consider when configuring your at-home workstation.

It's important to remember that this guide, like the pandemic itself, is continually evolving and there will be updates along the way. If you have questions related to working remotely, please speak to your manager.

Tech information

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What is Holland Bloorview doing to increase security of Zoom meetings?

Cybersecurity is top of mind. We are doing our utmost to protect the privacy of our staff whether they are holding video conferencing meetings or to providing virtual care for clients and their families. To further enhance security of Zoom video conference meetings, we are moving to Zoom for Healthcare.

Contact Greg Vanden Kroonenberg at gvandenkroonenberg@hollandbloorview.ca if you have more questions or would like to set up a new Zoom account for corporate purposes.

How can I get access to Holland Bloorview COVID-19 resources from home if I don't have access to Citrix and VPN?

In response to the challenges some of you have expressed accessing documents shared in our pandemic communications, we have added a [COVID-19: Resources for Staff](#) page to our website to make sure you can access important resources while working from home if you can't access HBConnect. Integrated into the site is our COVID-19 FAQ, a Mental Health and Wellness resource for staff, and a working from home guideline (among others tools). We will continue to update this page with additional content to support you during this time.

Do we have official Holland Bloorview backgrounds to use during zoom calls?

With virtual calls now a regular part of our day-to-day at Holland Bloorview, our very talented graphic designer, Yvonne Koo, has created eight different backgrounds that can be downloaded and used when on virtual video calls with colleagues, clients and families.

The backgrounds are available for download on the [COVID-19: Resources for Staff](#) web page.

An [instruction sheet](#) has also been created to help you successfully download and use the backgrounds.

Can I host a webinar on Zoom?

All Holland Bloorview licensed users can now host Zoom video webinars that allow to broadcast a Zoom meeting to up to 500 view-only attendees, depending on the size of your webinar.

To learn about how you can host a webinar on zoom, watch [this tutorial](#).

Is there a general Zoom tipsheet that we can access?

A new comprehensive [Zoom tip sheet](#) is now available to help all Holland Bloorview Zoom users learn more about:

- Zoom roles
- Different settings
- Virtual background changes
- Accessibility
- Security options

And much more...

The sheet can be found on our website under the [COVID-19: Resources for Staff](#) page and [on the HB Virtual: Resources page](#).

What is COVID Alert?

A new free app from the Government of Canada that can notify people about potential exposure to COVID-19 is now available to download. Using BlueTooth technology, the app—called COVID Alert—detects users nearby, and if a user later tests positive, they can inform other users with whom they were recently in close proximity.

We encourage staff to help stop the spread of the virus and download the app, which is totally voluntary and does not store or share personal information.

Read more about the [app](#), including details on downloading and how it works.

Information on policies affecting clients and families

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Are we still providing weekend passes for families?

Starting the weekend of July 18, our inpatient team will be taking a phased approach to test the use of leaves of absences (LOA)/weekend passes. As clients get within a few weeks of discharge and as part of a safe rehabilitation journey, families benefit from home assessments and greater preparation. Our inpatient team working closely with Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) has developed a process to ensure that our inpatient clients and families feel supported and set up for success when going home.

Many of our inpatient clients and families have been at Holland Bloorview since the beginning of the pandemic. We have heard directly from them that while they understand that protocols and practices have had to be different because of COVID-19, the impact on their sense of wellness, on their families, and in some cases on their mental health has been real. As such, we are excited to be able to provide some of our families the opportunity to return to their homes as part the rehabilitation journey. Thank you team.

Why are staff working in Complex Continuing Care wearing full PPE?

To protect our most vulnerable clients, we are making changes to our infection control practices in Complex Continuing Care (CCC).

As of April 8, all staff members providing care/treatment/recreation therapy in the **CCC close observation rooms** (i.e. 4-bed rooms), with tracheostomies and/or ventilated clients are required to wear full Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) (mask, goggles/face shield, gowns and gloves).

While not directly linked to COVID-19, this infection prevention and control measure is being made as a result of the aerosols that are released from the ventilators, along with some of the procedures that are carried out with our clients, like humidified air or cough assist. Staff on the CCC unit provide care to multiple clients and this measure is being taken as a precautionary infection prevention and control measure. Families in the CCC unit are not required to wear full PPE.

When finished providing care/treatment/recreation therapy, please remove all PPE except your mask. Please remember to practice good infection control practices on removal.

If you have questions, please talk to your manager.

What is happening with Ambulatory Care programs and services, such as the Ronald McDonald Playroom?

With input from programs, decisions have been made to ramp down ambulatory programs and move to alternative means to support our clients and families where possible, such as phone or virtual care.

In a very exciting development, a new directive has been developed that opens up new options for virtual care. Under this directive, subject to consent properly documented in Meditech Expanse, staff will be able to use email to communicate with clients/families and use telephone or videoconferencing for virtual visits. So, in addition to Ontario Telemedicine Network (OTN), staff will be able to use Zoom, WhatsApp and Skype to increase access to our services.

Our management team has reviewed each individual ambulatory program to assess how and/or if we can continue to meet the needs of clients in each program through these alternative means. We have outlined the current status of each program and services [here](#).

As part of this, the Ronald McDonald Playroom was unavailable for use as of March 18, 2020. Effective Monday, September 28, however, a safe, phased-in approach will begin to re-open the playroom. The process has been guided by Public Health Ontario and approved by the various Holland Bloorview recovery teams.

Details about Phase 1 of re-opening include:

- The playroom will be **open only for clients** attending a scheduled appointment with a clinician and/or clinic in communication learning and behaviour, prosthetics and orthotics and social work. The playroom will be used if needed for observation or while parents meet with staff.
- An **appointment-based request process** will be in place (details will be provided soon) with one client/family bubble in the playroom per appointment. Clinicians or coordinators will be responsible for scheduling.
- Pre-booked appointment slots will be **90 minutes** per family.
- Drop-ins are not permitted at this time.

Over the coming weeks, our intention is to open up more time slots for more programs and provide greater flexibility for families to use this critical service. For questions about scheduling, please contact [Karen Ward](#).

Decisions related to consultant clinics are forthcoming.

What is the mask policy for family caregivers and clients?

All clients and family members participating in indoor visits will be required to wear a mask at all times during their indoor visits. Previously, masks were not mandatory if visitors were in the same “bubble” as the client they were visiting and if physical distancing could be maintained.

What's the plan for staff working in the community (i.e. providing services in-home/schools)?

We will be waiting for directions from Public Health and central MOHLTC/Ontario Health planning tables on this topic. There will have to be a lot of planning around how staff can safely return back into the community. This is a much longer term plan that will need to be co-developed with staff that work in the community. Currently, our plan is to support virtual care first and then slowly ramp-up a return to onsite in-person visits. This might take a few months. More information to be shared when available.

Are inpatient families allowed to have visitors inside or outside of the hospital?

Inpatient families can start booking indoor and outdoor visits with their extended family. Visits will take place in designated spaces inside and outside of the hospital with a maximum of six people including the client; all participants must maintain two meters (six feet) of physical distancing.

The availability of indoor/outdoor visits supports increased engagement and interaction with loved ones that in turn, helps to support our clients' rehabilitation journey.

Effective August 27, the location for indoor visits will be OW220 and OW225, as the programs that required these rooms previously are not meeting on-site. Outdoor visits will carry on unchanged. In the event of poor weather, two areas in the cafeteria are being evaluated as alternative meeting locations. After September 25, all outdoor visits will be moved indoors—a location will be shared once confirmed.

Effective September 27, scheduled indoor family visits will be limited to Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, weekends and statutory holidays. This change is due to low utilization on Mondays and Fridays, as well as challenges with resources to support the visitation program. Multiple visits per week can still be booked, and exceptions may still be accessed through the same means. This policy may be revisited if Monday and Friday bookings are requested or if our census increases and the extra days are needed.

What's the recommendation for masking of inpatient and outpatient clients?

Wearing face masks can help stop the spread of viruses when keeping at least two meters of space between people is not possible. With more people in the hospital as we continue to ramp up, we know that physical distancing will become more and more challenging.

Therefore, as an extra precaution, outpatient children, at the discretion of their caregiver, can wear a procedural or a cloth mask while at Holland Bloorview. All inpatient clients over the age of 6 years will be required to wear a mask (well-fitted cloth or medical) when outside of their room, if they are able and willing, as of Wednesday, August 19. It will be the decision of the caregiver and team to determine whether wearing a mask is suitable for the child.

Generally, children 6 years and older can wear a mask safely. At the same time, we know that family caregivers are in the best position to make a decision about masking while weighing many factors including age, ability and willingness.

What are the masking requirements for singing during clinical appointments?

- **Indoor:** singing permitted only if both the clinician and client are masked
- **Outdoor:** singing permitted outside and unmasked if 2 meters of physical distance can be maintained.

Staff can get their mask from the screening tables at entrances while clients can ask a member of the nursing team. Please direct any remaining questions about singing to covid19@hollandbloorview.ca.

What is our outpatient Family Caregiver Presence Policy?

The ambulatory caregiver policy has been updated, effective Monday, October 19. The new policy allows:

- Two (2) caregivers per client at each visit
- Caregivers accompanying a client may bring their infant under 12 months along with them

Previously, the policy was one visitor per client and no children under the age of 16 years.

The update is a response to a large number of exceptions being granted in the previous policy to allow families to provide reasonable support for their child (client). The exceptions process created a barrier for families in attending important on-site appointments and was labour-intensive for our team to administer. The update also aligns with our caregiver policy for inpatients, which permits two designated caregivers (plus one substitute and one overnight caregiver). The change to allow infants is in response to the needs of breastfeeding mothers accompanying their child to appointments.

The increased number of people on site can be safely accommodated in the ambulatory area, will meet all of our infection prevention and control practices and will put no additional strain on PPE supplies.

How is Holland Bloorview helping families that face financial stress and barriers in physically accessing the hospital?

The Client and Family Integrated Care team has launched the new Emergency Transit Fund (ETF) across inpatient and outpatient programs. The fund is designed to alleviate the financial stress and barriers of physically accessing Holland Bloorview services by providing up to \$500 of wheelchair accessible taxi cabs and a parking voucher to eligible families. This was made possible through a generous donation from the Trillium Automobile Dealers Association.

To learn more about the ETF and how clients and families can access the fund, visit [Emergency Transit Fund](#) on HB Connect.

What is happening with music & arts?

Music & arts is excited to offer fee-for-service individual in-person music therapy and education sessions as well as group arts and music therapy sessions this fall. The groups will be smaller than usual due to caps on room capacity for physical distancing. Our art and music therapists are excited to be able to reconnect with children and their families after the spring programming was cancelled. These programs will run in evenings and on Saturdays from the end of September until the beginning of December in the music therapy rooms and arts studio on 1E.

For questions, please contact [Katie Miller](#).

When will the day program restart?

After pausing its services due to the pandemic, the day program has relaunched. Starting last week, the inpatient team began making client referrals to the program. As part of a phased approach, at this time it is only open to inpatient clients transitioning home. Other details:

- Currently limited to five clients at a time to respect physical distancing requirements
- The duration of the program has changed to two weeks to optimize everyone's opportunity to access it
- Busing is not available at this time. Transportation to and from the hospital is to be provided by the family
- Screening is performed daily and clients will wear a "I have been screened" sticker
- Siblings of clients are not permitted to attend with the client's caregiver (exceptions can be made with advance notice)

If you have any questions or comments, please reach out to [Nicholas Joachimides](#).

When will the respite day program restart?

Starting this Sunday, October 18, we will begin offering respite services between 1 to 7 p.m. for 10 consecutive Sundays. The program will allow up to eight kids between the ages of 2 to 18 to enjoy an afternoon on site while providing much needed relief to families. The health and safety measures put in place to ensure everyone's safety (staff and participants) were influenced from lessons from the previous session.

If you have any questions about the program, please reach out to [Robyn Sanford](#).

Back-to-school information

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What is the plan for return-to-school for inpatient and outpatient clients? Will they continue to be separated for programming, or will there be mixing of clients? What will happen with the school provided for kids in the community? Will they be sharing facilities and resources?

Inpatient clients won't be separated by program and will run as per usual. Children from the community will be kept separate from inpatient clients with separate teachers and support staff as much as possible. For therapy in the school, children will be cohorted. Therapists in the school will be responsible to support 4/9 classrooms to minimize the interactions.

Students will have their lunch in the classroom, not the larger lunch room. There will also be a phased-in enrollment process (more details to come). Lastly, children will be screened at home by their parents who will provide the information to the school each day.

How will we manage staff who have kids in school who develop symptoms (e.g. elementary school age child with sniffles sent home)? What is the protocol for the Holland Bloorview parent? What do I do if I've chosen to get my child tested for COVID-19?

As children head back to school, it will be common for some to develop colds and sniffles, especially in the fall and winter months. This doesn't necessarily mean they have COVID-19, but if parents are concerned, they could have their kids tested. Schools will also be cautious and will likely ask parents to bring their child home at the slightest sign of illness. Although children in Grades 3 and lower don't have to mask at school, to protect your child, you might want to ask your child to test out a few so they get used to the feeling of wearing a face covering. Buy a few cloth masks for your kids and wash them daily.

For IPAC and occupational health recommendations on what to do as you await a COVID-19 test result—your own, or that of your child, spouse or family member—view the flow chart on our [Resources](#) page, directly under the FAQ section.

Can I use sick days if my child is ill and cannot go to school/daycare?

Sick days should not be used in order to stay home and care for an ill child. Employees are to use vacation, banked lieu time or work from home if possible in these circumstances. Staff who are not eligible for sick days, which is dependent on status, are receiving a % in lieu on each pay for vacation.

Summer programming at Holland Bloorview

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What's happening with summer programming at Holland Bloorview?

Confirmed summer 2020 sessions cancelled to date:

- The Independence Program – 3 week overnight residential program
- Turning Point – 1 week overnight program
- Camp Connection – 4 day overnight program

In addition to the above, we are assessing the feasibility and interest of conducting some of our programs (or aspects of them) virtually.

Our assessment is ongoing and we will continue to communicate our decisions once they have been made.

Physical distancing practices

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How is Holland Bloorview enforcing physical distancing and what can I do to help?

Physical distancing is a key measure to fight the spread of COVID-19. Here are the measures we've taken to support it at Holland Bloorview:

- Active screening with line-ups that support physical distancing

- Enhanced signage around the hospital to promote physical distance of at least two meters
- Reduced in-hospital staffing and increased work-at-home capability
- On March 25, we closed the staff workout gym. Payroll deductions for this service are paused until further notice.
- On March 25, we paused all staff group gatherings in the gymnasium below the school. This includes ball hockey and basketball.
- With reduced traffic in the hospital, many workstations are free. Please ask your manager about using someone else's workspace if you find you are in close quarters with colleagues.

Here are a few things you can do:

- As some essential in-person meetings are still necessary, please make sure that the room booked allows for adequate distancing between attendees (two meters). If you cannot keep this distance between every person, your meeting should be moved to a bigger space or people should be asked to join the meeting by phone.
- If you're standing in line in the cafeteria/Tim Hortons, make sure you keep adequate distance (at least two meters) between you and the person in front of you.
- If you're having lunch with your colleagues in the cafeteria or anywhere else in the building, please make sure you leave at least an empty chair between you and the next person sitting next to you.

How can we maintain physical distance during therapy sessions?

A key factor is to look at the size of the room to ensure proper physical distancing. With more empty spaces, more options are available to run programs.

For staff: because of the nature of our work, it may be challenging or in some cases, impossible, to maintain proper physical distancing with patients while providing care and conducting therapy sessions. This is why we are requiring all staff who interact with our clients to wear appropriate PPE.

We are also offering virtual therapy as an option as well if appropriate.

Can we use the outdoor picnic tables?

The outdoor picnic tables, accessible through the door in the cafeteria, are ready for use by staff, clients and families.

Please remember:

- Physical distancing rules still apply outdoors when using picnic tables. Our Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) team recommends only two people per table at a time sitting on opposite ends to maintain 2 meters of distance.
- Do not re-position the tables. Tables are strategically placed to maintain safe distance between them.
- Smoking and vaping is not allowed on hospital grounds

How many people can sit at the same picnic table at once?

We ask that only two people are seated at a picnic table at a time. Individuals should be sitting on diagonally opposite ends to maintain at least two meters of physical distancing.

Students and volunteers

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What guidance do you have for volunteers?

Volunteer Resources and the Family Leadership Program are communicating with registered volunteers regarding COVID-19. Updates and information are being shared via the password-protected Volunteer Portal and via email.

As of June 22, 2020, volunteers have resumed limited activities on-site including supporting ambulatory care registration, family/caregiver visits and inpatient therapeutic recreation. Volunteers are required to adhere to Holland Bloorview's active screening and masking protocols while in the building.

Staff supervisors of volunteers: In the event that you receive a question from a volunteer regarding their personal health situation, please refer to this FAQ document to provide guidance, and/or contact the Volunteer Resources department at x7033 or volunteers@hollandbloorview.ca for assistance. Volunteers that are sick should stay home, call the AWAY line (ext. 3020) and state their role as a volunteer, their symptoms, and if necessary, ask for a call back from Occupational Health to determine their status.

What guidance do you have for students?

The Teaching and Learning Institute is communicating with all students regarding COVID-19. Updates and information are being shared via email.

As of Monday, March 16, all unpaid student placements in clinical areas (i.e. nursing, health discipline and medical office administration students) were paused until July 6. July 6 is the beginning of Phase 1 of the re-integration of students.

The planning process for learners is interconnected with the broader hospital recovery strategy for clinical and operational activities, and includes consideration of Provincial directions and recommendations, our ability to implement protective and preventative measures (including PPE), physical space, health human resources and our ability to mitigate a potential resurgence.

Reintegration of learners will continue to be phased, enabling Holland Bloorview to reintegrate learners safely and effectively, while appreciating capacity and needs. Throughout the phases, we will **prioritize reintegrating advanced learners who require placements to complete their academic programs and graduate on time (or approximately on time), and where eligibility for licensure may be impacted.**

In the event that you receive a question from a student please contact Kim Jones Galley at ext. 3645 or at kgalley@hollandbloorview.ca for additional information.

What is the status of Project Search?

Project SEARCH Toronto is returning to Holland Bloorview this fall. Although there are 10 students in the 2020/21 class, they are cohorted into two groups with five students completing on-site placements at a time. Orientation for the students have already begun at UHN's Toronto Rehabilitation Institute and we're excited that our partners at UHN will also offer some work placements this year.

At Holland Bloorview, work experience and skills training will be available with the following teams to start: Sodexo (food services and environmental services), collaborative practice/therapy areas, materials management and quality & safety. As pandemic recovery continues, additional areas for learning may be identified.

Orientation will begin at Holland Bloorview the week of September 28, and work placements will begin the week of October 12 and run through December. Two additional nine-week cycles, January to March and April to June are also included as part of this year's programs. We are pleased to share that some of last year's graduates have secured job opportunities at Holland Bloorview and you may see them around the building working as greeters/sanitizers to support the family visiting program and with the foundation and people & culture teams.

If you have questions about the program, please contact [Carolyn McDougall](#).

Bloorview Research Institute

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What is happening with the Bloorview Research Institute?

All communications related to changes in work-flow will be communicated directly by Dr. Tom Chau and Mani Kang going forward. If you have any questions, please reach out to Mani Kang directly. Note that due to the nature of work conducted within the institute, practices may differ slightly from the hospital.

I'm running a clinical trial involving kids coming to the hospital receiving therapies that need to be monitored. Are there any considerations?

Clinical trials can continue subject to the new screening measures. Depending on health and travel history, some visitors to Holland Bloorview will be asked to return home.

Bloorview School Authority and KinderCircle

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What is happening with the Bloorview School Authority and our nursery schools?

Based on provincial guidance, all publicly funded Ontario schools and nursery schools were closed, including Bloorview School Authority and Holland Bloorview-run nursery schools.

Come September, Bloorview School Authority will re-open to staff and students. Staff will be back on-site for professional activity days September 2 and 3, and most students will begin classes the week of September 14. The re-opening plan was created in consultation with the hospital, Toronto Public Health, the Ontario Ministry of Education and Bloorview School Authority staff and families.

Should school staff continue to use CaviWipes to clean school equipment even though Cavi Wipes are in high demand/short supply and the equipment haven't been used since March?

Yes. Please use CaviWipes to clean the school equipment even though they haven't been used since March.

Screening

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Why aren't the staff doing active screening wearing Personal Protective Equipment PPE?

Our active screening booths have been set up purposefully to allow our screeners to perform their duties without the need of PPE. The tables for staff screening allow appropriate physical distance and new Plexiglas windows have been set up for staff screening clients and families which provides the appropriate barrier to ensure their safety.

How can I sign up for a screening shift?

If you are volunteering or being redeployed to screen you can now sign-up online with PickATime. The PickATime system is accessible from home and will allow staff to log in and book a shift that is convenient for their schedule. The system will then generate automatic confirmation emails and reminder emails 24 hours before shifts start. Text message reminders are also enabled for users who enter their cellphone numbers.

To get more information on how you can sign up for a shift, go to our [COVID-19: Resources for Staff page](#) and look under 'Sign up for a screening shift'.

Why aren't temperature checks part of the screening process?

We are following the guidelines issued by our medical experts at the local, provincial and federal levels when developing and revising our screening procedures. Currently the guidelines are not recommending that hospitals to do temperature checks as part of their screening process. Should this change, we will update our screening procedures accordingly.

Do I need to be re-screened/show my online attestation if I leave the hospital for a short break during my shift?

Yes. Screening is mandatory upon every entry to the hospital if you leave the hospital grounds. even if it

was just for a short period of time. Please cooperate with our screeners who are an essential part of our Holland Bloorview community and a key line of defense against the virus.

Is the screening process at Holland Bloorview going electronic?

As of July 15, phase 2 of digital screening became available. Staff and students can access our network to self-screen by completing a screening form (via HB Connect) every seven days and attesting that if you develop any COVID-like symptoms or the answers to the screening questions change over the seven days, you will contact Occupational Health immediately.

This new phase will mean a faster and more efficient screening process while continuing to ensure a safe work environment for everyone in our community.

Where can I find the self-screening form?

- The blue "COVID-19 Screening" button is available directly on the right hand side of the [HB Connect homepage](#).
- After entering the COVID-19 Screening hub, select "Self-Screening Form" under the *Staff and Student Resources* heading on the right side
- When completing and submitting the screening form, you will automatically receive an email confirmation to your Holland Bloorview email address. You can also choose to receive the confirmation email to an alternate email account (such as gmail) to make it easier to show screeners on your mobile device
- After showing this email with your ID badge, you will only be asked two questions to determine the appropriate mask/PPE required to safely perform your duties at work

Please note that you are required to present the email confirmation with your ID badge to screeners every time you enter the hospital, including during your shift when you come back from your break if you decide to leave the building, via your mobile device or printed copy. This email will be valid for seven days (i.e. Monday to Monday). The self-screening process described above must be completed by the end of the seventh day, or before your next planned shift on-site.

HR related questions

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What is Holland Bloorview's re-deployment strategy?

Our re-deployment strategy is outlined in our [Redeployment Centre](#) on HBConnect to connect areas in need of support to staff available for redeployment.

For more information, please visit [this page](#) or send an email to redeployment@hollandbloorview.ca.

Our ultimate goal is to sustain the safe operations of our hospital in service to our clients.

Are Holland Bloorview staff able to work from home?

Yes. Our [working from home](#) guidelines outline our process.

What about compensation during pandemic?

Holland Bloorview has continued to compensate staff with their regular wage if they've been asked to work from home or have been redeployed.

Some pandemic practices will differ for BRI. If you have any questions about compensation or funding related to your research, please contact Mani Kang (mkang@hollandbloorview.ca) or Dr. Tom Chau (tchau@hollandbloorview.ca).

If I am being asked to be quarantined, can I work from home? Will I be paid?

Where possible, quarantined staff should check with their manager and make arrangements to work from home. Where this is not feasible, we will compensate fulltime, part-time and contract employees from a designated fund that does not impact departmental budgets.

What is Holland Bloorview's sick policy?

Please review [Holland Bloorview's sick policy on HB connect](#).

What is Holland Bloorview's policy on healthcare workers employed in multiple institutions?

Staff that also work at another hospital, on a unit where a COVID outbreak is taking place, should not attend work at Holland Bloorview. This is the same protocol we follow for staff working at other hospitals where an influenza outbreak is in place. Note, if the team member worked at a hospital that had an outbreak, but they did not work on the affected unit, then they can continue to work at Holland Bloorview.

The only exception to this policy is for respiratory therapists that also work outside of Holland Bloorview in an ICU or in a COVID-19 outbreak unit. They can report to work as long as they have no symptoms of COVID-19. This policy supports meeting the needs of our clients, ensuring we have proper staffing during all shifts, and follows all provincial guidelines.

If you have any questions about this, please speak to your manager.

What is Holland Bloorview's summer vacation policy?

As of August 1, 2020, you will be able to request up to 2 weeks of vacation at a time subject to approval by your manager. Currently, staff are entitled to take a maximum of 1 week vacation per month (2 under exceptional circumstances).

If you have questions or would like to book your summer vacation, please speak to your manager.

Will the maximum cap on vacation accrual benefit entitlements for staff be extended since staff can't take more than one week off at a time for time being?

Yes, we will be extending the maximum cap on vacation accrual to September 30, 2020 from August 31, 2020. Effective October 1, 2020 we will reinstate the maximum cap on vacation accrual. On this date, employees who have exceeded their 18-month accrual will not accrue additional hours until they fall below their 18-month limit. The maximum cap on vacation entitlements was temporarily lifted during the earlier phases of the pandemic until August 31, 2020.

See our [vacation policy \(page 3\)](#) for additional explanation of vacation accrual.

What is the policy on vacationing outside of Canada?

We strongly advise that staff do not leave Canada. If you do leave the country, you will be required to self-isolate for 14 days upon return and work from home where possible. If you're unable to work from home, you will need to take unpaid leave, vacation or lieu time. All vacation must be approved by your manager and for travel outside the country, requests will need to include self-isolation time.

For any travel, in or out of Canada, please check with your destination's local authorities for any restrictions or self-isolation requirements.

Will Holland Bloorview implement a temporary pay raise for staff who are not deemed eligible by the government to receive the Pandemic Pay?

Unfortunately, we do not have the funding or excess in our budget to be able to support a temporary pay raise.

Despite valiant efforts by Ontario Health, the Ontario Hospital Association and our Toronto Academic Health Science Network partners advocating for pandemic pay for all healthcare workers, we were disappointed to learn that no additional changes would be made to the eligibility list. If you have questions about Pandemic Pay and whether you qualify, please contact HR.

What is Holland Bloorview's policy on hiring at this time?

We have no restrictions on hiring at the moment. However, if you have any questions or concerns that may impact your decision, please speak to your manager. Again, these procedures may be different in the BRI.

How can I request an ethics consult during COVID-19?

Staff may continue to request consults for themselves or on behalf of their team from our Ethics Service, by directly emailing Dolly Menna-Dack. There are also ethics resources on HB Connect under the Ethics Department Hub.

Mask Policy at Holland Bloorview

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What is Holland Bloorview's mask policy?

As increased evidence becomes available showcasing the safety and effectiveness of cloth masks, we will be allowing some staff to wear personal cloth masks, **effective Monday, August 31.**

Staff across the hospital who do not work in clinical roles or areas, or do not have client-facing roles, are encouraged to wear a cloth mask at the hospital when physical distancing cannot be maintained.

The checklist below has been prepared to help you determine whether you can wear a cloth mask. If you answer “no” to the following three questions, then you will be permitted to wear a cloth mask in all common areas and when physical distancing is not possible.

- Do you work on or have an office in a clinical area or floor (for example, second floor clinic room, therapy gym/assessment room, dental department, third floor inpatient unit, fourth floor orthotics/prosthetics, BRI, school, day program)?
- Do you have a client-facing role (for example, reception, registration, CFIC/welcome desk)?
- Do you provide direct care that requires you to be within two metres of clients?

If you answered “yes” to one or more question above, then a level 1 or 2 mask remains mandatory. If you are unsure about the type of mask you should be wearing, screeners will be able to assist upon your arrival at the hospital.

Should you need to go to one of the above clinical areas for a meeting or speak to someone for longer than 15 minutes where a level 1 or 2 mask is required, then you will need to pick up a level 1 mask at the screening desk before proceeding to the area.

Cloth masks are recommended as a way to protect others from those who wear them. This is especially important with asymptomatic carriers. Level 1 masks achieve this, but they also fall under personal protective equipment (PPE)—they protect the wearer.

As per direction from Toronto Public Health, a good cloth mask should:

- Contain at least two layers of tightly woven cotton or linen
- Cover the nose, mouth and chin, and be easy to breathe through
- Fit securely to the head with ties or ear loops—there should be no gaping and one’s vision should not be impaired
- Be comfortable so as to avoid the need for adjustments when wearing
- Maintain its shape after washing and drying
- Not contain non-breathable materials such as plastic.

This policy change will allow us to conserve more PPE for our clinicians who provide direct client care, especially as we start to move into phase 3 and approach flu season.

Read up on [how to wash and dry](#) cloth masks.

For tips on how to properly don and doff a procedure mask and how to correctly place a mask on a clean surface when taking a break, [check out this video](#) or [this poster](#).

For information on mask policy for family caregivers, [click here](#).

Please note it is a province-wide policy that people must wear masks while indoors. It will now be required that all staff, students and volunteers wear a mask, if they are able, **as soon as they enter the hospital.**

The mask you wear when you enter the hospital can be cloth or medical; the mask you wear after you've been screened depends on your role and location in the hospital, and should be switched out, as appropriate, following proper sanitization at that time.

Clients over the age of 6 who are willing and able can/should wear masks indoors, as not all children will understand how to keep six feet apart.

What's the difference between level 1 and level 2 procedure masks?

Level 1 masks are used for short procedures and exams that don't involve aerosols, sprays of fluids or when no direct care is being performed.

Level 2 masks are for procedure involving low to moderate levels of aerosols, sprays and/or fluids. Or when normal direct care procedures are being performed

How do I use my mask while I am working in client care?

- The mask is to be worn continuously on the unit, without removing the mask between patient encounters
- If assessing a client who is on droplet/contact precautions – don additional personal protective equipment (PPE) such as a gown, eye protection and gloves -- when going into the room and leave the same procedure mask on.
- When exiting the room remove gown, gloves and eye protection and perform hand hygiene. The procedure mask does not need to be changed unless soiled, damaged, or very moist.
- Please dispose of masks in a sanitary manner when you are no longer using them and kindly remind people who might not be familiar with mask use that they must be disposed of safely.

What do I do with my mask when I am on break or eating lunch?

- You can remove your procedure mask during breaks and while eating lunch.
- To remove the mask:
 - Perform hand hygiene – wash your hands or use hand sanitizer
 - Remove the mask using the ear loops only
 - Place the mask on a clean surface with the inner mask facing upwards to avoid contamination (white side facing up)
 - Perform hand hygiene (hand washing or sanitizer) before re-applying your mask
- Once your break is done: Perform hand hygiene and reapply your mask

Please note –Inpatient Nursing Unit Report Rooms are considered a patient area, therefore masks cannot be removed in these area. Eating is not permitted in these rooms

How long can I use my procedure mask for?

You should change your mask if it becomes visibly soiled, very moist or damaged.

Where do I pick up my masks?

The masks will be distributed at screening desks for staff and family/caregivers.

If I need more than 2 masks where do I get another one from?

If you require an additional mask please ask your operation managers during business hours. After hours please ask the hospital charge nurse.

Is there an expiry date for N95 masks?

Yes. N95 masks expire every 5 years.

How do I handle the procedure mask I get at screening each day?

1. Pick up your mask at screening. Be sure to pick up a paper bag as well. Put on your mask while at screening before going to your workspace.
2. When you leave for the day, wear your mask to the exit door by the pool. Clean your hands thoroughly at the hand sanitizer station by the exit.
3. If your mask is clean, place it in the paper bag you got earlier that morning. Facemasks should be carefully folded so that the outer surface is held inward and against itself. You can wear it again the next time you are at work.
4. If your mask is very moist, soiled or damaged, throw out your mask in the garbage bin near the exit door and get a new one the next time you come in.

How can I preserve my mask when I leave the hospital if it is not soiled?

If your mask is not soiled, wet or damaged, best evidence suggests storing it in a paper bag. To support preservation efforts, paper bags are being distributed at the screening booths.

When returning to the hospital, don it when you return following appropriate hand hygiene practices and only take the masks that you need at screening. [This video](#) has been created by our team to showcase proper donning and doffing techniques.

Is there an optimal way to place the mask in a paper bag?

Yes. To store your face mask safely and avoid potentially contaminating the paper bag, fold the mask so that inside of the mask (white side) is facing out when you place it in the bag.

Should I get a new paper bag every day at screening?

You can reuse the same bag multiple times given that you store your mask properly by folding it so that the outer surface is held inward and against itself to reduce contact with the outer surface during

storage. When the outer surface of the mask touches the inside of the paper bag, you will need to use a new bag.

Can I leave the paper bag with the mask at my desk?

You can't leave your mask and paper bag at your desk as the mask should be taken off at the exit door.

What should I do with my mask if it is soiled and cannot be used again?

If your mask is visibly soiled (i.e. is marked with makeup), please place in the garbage bin near the exit door as you leave the hospital.

How can I tighten my mask? What are 'ear savers' and where can I get one?

To tighten your mask you can use 'ear savers', a device that helps ensure the mask fits better on your face if it's loose and protect the ears from getting sore if you wear your mask for long periods. Some ear savers are made out of headbands while others are plastic, made out of 3D printing. We have a limited supply of ear savers at our screening stations.

What measures are screening staff taking when handling the masks they provide us?

According to the new protocol put in place the week of April 6, two types of masks are now located outside the plexiglass where the screening staff sit.

Once staff are screened, they are instructed by screening staff to sanitize their hands first, and then pick up their mask by lifting it out of the box by the ear loop.

Can I take masks home for personal use?

No, we need to ensure that we have enough supply for staff here at the hospital who require the use of N95 respirators. There are no directives indicating the use of masks outside of a hospital setting

Can I wear my reusable procedure mask when taking the transit?

We encourage the use of the procedure masks to be worn at Holland Bloorview only for providing protection to our staff, clients and families. In the community (i.e. in transit or at grocery stores) we encourage the use of the non-medical cloth masks.

If staff members wear the procedure masks given to them at the beginning of their shift when taking transit, that mask should not be reused for a second shift at the hospital even if it's still in good shape. By wearing your procedure mask out in the community, you're exposing the outside of the mask to a greater risk of virus exposure as not everyone outside of Holland Bloorview will be wearing a mask.

Where can I get a cloth mask to use outside of the hospital?

You can get a cloth mask at reception courtesy of community donations [from our mask drive.](#)

Can I keep my mask on until I get to my car?

Yes, as long as you sanitize your hands before and after placing your mask in the paper bag properly. If you want to dispose of your mask after you get in the car, you can deposit in a garbage bin.

Will Holland Bloorview be able to purchase masks with clear windows so our lips can be seen?

We are happy to share that we have received an order of masks with a clear panel that will help improve communication with clients and/or caregivers who may have hearing impairments and rely on speech reading.

These masks are reserved for staff who cater to specific client needs like speech-language pathologists, staff conducting psychological testing, staff working with hearing impaired clients, BRI staff working on specific projects that require clear masks, etc.

Staff who have identified the need to wear a clear mask and haven't received one yet, please speak to your manager.

Should we be wearing eye protection during clinical care?

We've updated our guidance for wearing eye protection during the provision of client care. Goggles or face shields must be worn for all client care:

- If you are within less than two meters of a client and providing prolonged client care activities (i.e. bathing, changing diapers, physical assessments, suctioning, hands-on therapy, feeding, etc.), you must wear eye protection along with a mask. If you're just talking or meeting with a family caregiver, a face shield or goggles is not required.
- If you are more than two meters of a client when providing care then you don't need to wear eye protection with your mask (i.e. changing an empty bed, talking with a client from a distance, during some recreational activities, during some group activities, housekeeping, food services, fixing a lightbulb, etc.)

If you wear glasses, have hearing aids or microtia a face shield or mask with visor might be easier to wear. If you don't fall under the mentioned criteria then please use the goggles.

If you have questions about what personal protective equipment (PPE) to wear during clinical care, we've created a [visual guide for what PPE](#) to wear. This graphic is posted on the [COVID 19: Resources for staff page](#) and on the third floor and will be updated when there is a change in practice.

Do I need to wear goggles when working with a family member and can't maintain 2 meters distance (i.e. working on completing forms)?

Goggles are meant to be worn for direct care with a client when 2 meters distance is not achievable. The only time you would wear goggles when interacting with a family member is when you can't maintain 6 feet of distance and you feel more comfortable with eye protection, when the individual has been isolated due to experiencing possible COVID-like symptoms, and because he/she has been newly admitted to the hospital and has to isolate in the room.

I wear glasses, can I use a face shield instead of goggles when interacting with clients?

Yes, if a face shield can be worn in place of goggles should that be a more comfortable choice for you.

What if I don't have my own goggles? Where can I access protective eye gear?

Face shields and goggles are available at the main pod nursing station, on the CCC nursing station and the 2nd floor pods. If goggles/face shields are needed in your area, please contact your operations manager who'll then contact Frank Venturino at FVenturino@hollandbloorview.ca.

Can protective eye gear be shared among users?

Goggles and face shields can be reused after cleaning. After you're done using, please thoroughly disinfect them with Cavi-Wipes and place them in the allocated bins located on the 3rd and 2nd floor. **This practice does not include masks with visors attached. Those are to be disposed in regular garbage.**

How often should goggles/face shields be cleaned?

Re-usable goggles and face shields should be cleaned:

- At least once a day
- When visibly soiled
- Exiting an isolation room
- Have been splashed or sprayed with bodily fluids
- Between use of different individuals (i.e. when shared among different individuals, not use between client interactions)

To properly clean goggles and face shields, use one cavi wipe to clean the surface and a second to disinfect.

What can I do to prevent my glasses from fogging while wearing a mask?

There are a number of solutions to prevent glasses from fogging while wearing procedural masks, including (source: [New York Times](#)):

Mold your mask. Medical masks have built-in, bendable metal strips that you can mold to the bridge of your nose.

Tighten the mask. Adjust the ties or the ear loops so the mask fits snugly against your face. The ear savers are good for this.

Pull up your mask. An easier tip for day-to-day mask wear is to use the weight of your glasses to block the air. Pull the mask up over the bridge of the nose as high as you can (make sure it's still under your chin too) and let your glasses rest on top of the mask.

Try other home remedies. Popular suggestions for treating lenses this way include baby shampoo, toothpaste and shaving cream. (My girlfriend used shaving cream and said it worked for

her). However, I would be cautious with this if your lenses are treated with a coating which promises protection against UV rays, glare, scratches, smudges, dust and water.

The new level-2 masks are not fitting properly. What can I do to make them fit better? Can we use the original level-2 masks instead?

The new level-2 masks still adhere to the same standards as the original level-2 masks, even though the fit may be different for some. We suggest using the earsavers strap to make the masks fit better. If that doesn't work, try tying a knot at the base of each strap (part of strap that is near the mask (see this [YouTube](#) video)). If both of these solutions don't work, call Occupational Health to see if they have other suggestions to help you keep your mask safe and secure while working.

Do I need to wear one mask in the community and a different mask when I'm at the hospital?

Upon review, our infection control experts have determined it is safe to wear a mask that has been worn in the community. A reminder that an effective cloth mask should be clean and dry, fit properly and have at least two layers of tightly woven material. Cloth masks should be washed daily.

How should I dispose of my mask so as not to endanger any animals?

It has also been brought up that some staff are concerned about the environmental impact of disposable masks, specifically the possibility that animals could become entangled in the ear loops. To prevent this, one solution is to tear off the ear loops before tossing in the garbage. If you wish to do this, IPAC reminds you do a thorough job of sanitizing your hands afterward.

Where should I dispose of my mask and gloves?

We thank all staff for their diligence in wearing PPE on-site. Due to a noted increase of masks and gloves left on property grounds, specifically in the parking lot, outer cafeteria area and Spiral Garden, we ask staff to be mindful when disposing of masks and gloves. If you wear disposable items, please be sure to drop them in the garbage cans located around the hospital. There is a bin located at the main exit door on Level 1 for your convenience—please use this as you leave the building.

Why are some people at the hospital not wearing masks?

You may encounter family caregivers at the hospital who are not wearing masks, but do have a "Mask Exemption Authorization" sticker. Through the screening process or consultation with clinical care teams, they have been identified as being unable to wear a mask or a face shield. Please know that everyone in the hospital continues to be screened daily. We continue to encourage other mitigating strategies to prevent the transmission of COVID-19, such as hand washing and maintaining two metres of physical distancing while on-site.

If you are staff and feel you are unable to wear a mask for medical reasons, please contact occupational health.

Do people behind plexiglass need to be wearing masks?

Staff who work behind plexiglass may not need to wear PPE while they greet clients, families and staff, as plexiglass acts as a barrier. If there is more than one person behind plexiglass and two metres of physical distancing cannot be maintained, then those staff members must wear a mask.

When staff step out from behind the plexiglass barrier, they need to wear their mask.

Staff Wellness

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Do staff have access to mental health and wellness resources at Holland Bloorview?

Taking care of your mental health and wellness is critically important to making it through this pandemic. You are encouraged to block off time in your day to turn off the news and do something to help connect to yourself, your family and loved ones.

We have a number of resources available on our [HB Connect Mental Health Hub](#) (only accessible via HB Connect) to support you with mental health needs. All employees also have access to the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) that will connect with you a licensed counsellor. This service is available 24/7 and can be reached by calling 1-800-268-5211. It is also available by app in the Google and Apple stores under "My EAP."

We have also launched a [Wellness Initiatives and Resources](#) page on our website to help support you during this pandemic.

Some of the resources shared include:

- Tips on how to adjust to working from home and dealing with new technologies for staff and managers.
- Information on companies supporting healthcare workers at this time (spoiler: free coffee and chicken).
- Details on how to take advantage of the Solution-Focused Health Care Coaching program and sign up for a one-on-one virtual coaching session.

[The Wellness Initiatives and Resources](#) page will be updated regularly with new resources! If you have any suggestions for what information would be beneficial, or come across a tip/resource that you think is important to share, please contact humanresources@hollandbloorview.ca.

What else is Holland Bloorview doing to support staff at this time?

We have never been more proud and appreciative of our staff who are maneuvering through this situation with resilience, patience and excellence as you put our clients and families first.

We are looking at ways to alleviate some of the stress and anxiety some of you might be feeling by providing opportunities within the hospital to decompress and feel at ease as much as possible. These offerings include:

- Changes to the parking policy (check Q&A on parking)

- As of March 25, staff will have access to the pool showers and change rooms if they wish to take a shower before heading home.
- Effective immediately, anyone coming to work at the main site can dress casually.
- Earlier in the pandemic, we offered a Social Respite Room and an Art Respite Room. Although feedback around these was highly positive, we've had to prepare the rooms for the re-opening of Bloorview School Authority. The rooms are no longer available for use, but please feel free to visit stairwell #1 for a look at the artwork created in the Art Respite Room!
- We understand some people may be feeling anxious about returning to work. To provide guidance and a sense of calm, we've posted to our website the Canadian Mental Health Association's "[Return to the Workplace: A psychological toolkit for heading back to work](#)". This resource has excellent information for both employees and employers to support the mental health of individuals as they prepare to re-enter the workplace. Should you have specific questions or concerns, as always, please speak to your manager or occupational health.

To get access to more initiatives and resources, visit our new [Wellness Initiatives and Resources](#).

Are there external supports we can use?

Canada's largest mental health teaching hospital, CAMH, is now accepting [self-referrals from health care workers in Toronto-based hospitals who are impacted by COVID-19 and require support for their mental health](#).

Is the Gymnasium open for staff use?

Starting September 15, staff will be able to access the gymnasium on Tuesdays between 4 and 5 p.m. on a drop-in basis. Capacity will be five individuals at a time. Please remember to maintain physical distancing and avoid sharing equipment. This means group games and team sports are not permitted at this time. Please also wash hands upon entrance to the gym and before leaving, complete the sign-in/sign-out sheet and disinfect equipment after use.

Due to the re-opening of BSA, access to the gymnasium cannot be granted during the day. It is also used by the GUAG program and inpatient therapeutic recreation. The traffic flow in and out of these client spaces needs to be considered.

The gymnasium had been made available for staff use on Tuesdays and Wednesdays for longer periods in the summer when the staff fitness centre was closed and community fitness centres were not open. With the staff fitness centre re-opening and with community gyms now open, staff's need for the gymnasium has declined. Further, the staff sign-in/out sheet at the end of the summer indicated that there were very few people using the space.

For inquiries:

- Email Kristen English at kenglish@hollandbloorview.ca or Heather Keating at hkeating@hollandbloorview.ca if you have questions about the operation this program
- Email Kristen English at kenglish@hollandbloorview.ca to inquire about cleaning supplies at the gym if unavailable

- Email Kaley Carveth at kcarveth@hollandbloorview.ca and Cara Sudoma csudoma@hollandbloorview.ca for questions related to employee health and safety or infection control

When will the staff fitness centre re-open? What about staff yoga?

In accordance with the Ontario government's decision to implement new public health measures for Toronto, Peel and Ottawa, we will be closing the staff fitness centre and ending staff yoga classes as of October 16 until further notice. Staff gym memberships will be placed on hold until the gym is re-opened. We encourage staff to continue to be active through outdoor activities, such as daily walks, runs, yoga in the park or exercising to fitness videos at home.

We continue to monitor Ontario Health guidance closely for impact on our clients, families and staff.

Are there virtual ways for staff to connect?

Do you miss catching up with coworkers in the Tim's line? Chatting in the caf? Running into each other in the elevators? Join [Lunch 'n Chat](#) (formerly mini town halls)—a weekly virtual lunchtime session where you can connect with colleagues and talk about things that matter to you, like working from home, how the back-to-school process is going and how to care for yourself while also caring for family members. Register [here](#) and you will be sent a Zoom link. If you have questions or suggestions for topics, please contact [Sarah Keenan](#).

When will the on-site massage service restart?

The on-site massage service will restart on October 13. A registered massage therapist (RMT) from Onsite Health Massage Therapy will be available two Tuesdays per month by appointment between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. in 5W100. [Employees can sign up for 30-minute chair massages.](#)

Other details:

- The cost of a massage is \$50 +HST and can be paid by cash or cheque
- If you have group benefit coverage, Onsite will submit directly to Blue Cross on your behalf
- Please refer to the [HB Connect calendar](#) for specific dates

Due to COVID-19, masks must be worn at all times by staff and RMTs. Equipment will be cleaned by RMTs between appointments.

Ways to help

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How can I help clients and families at Holland Bloorview?

If you're looking to provide support to our clients and families during this challenging time, you can do so through the No Boundaries Fund and the Family Support Fund.

No Boundaries Fund

Call for applications to the No Boundaries Fund. Do you have a bright idea that can support our clients, families and staff during the COVID-19 pandemic? Thanks to our Foundation and the generous support of community donors we are able to fund the ideas that will make the greatest impact at this time.

What's your bright idea?

We are looking for any ideas that promote the health, wellness and support of our clients, families and staff that have been impacted by COVID-19. If your idea is related to safety equipment provided by the hospital, we ask that you contact your manager to discuss before applying. All ideas should also adhere to current physical distancing directives that we're all following.

Who can apply?

Any staff of Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital can apply and ideas can also be co-created with clients and families.

How do I apply?

No lengthy applications or red tape; just answer the questions below:

- 1) Applicant's name, job title and department
- 2) Your idea and the impact you hope it will achieve
- 3) An estimated budget (up to a maximum of \$1,000)
 - a. We will consider requests over \$1,000 under special circumstances

Send your responses to the questions above by email to noboundariesfund@hollandbloorview.ca with the subject line 'No Boundaries Fund Application'.

How are ideas selected?

Applications will be monitored daily. At the end of each week all applications will be reviewed by Julia and we will get back to applicants within 7 days of submission.

Note: the deadline for applications is September 30!

Questions?

Email noboundariesfund@hollandbloorview.ca

Family Support Fund

During this Covid-19 pandemic, many of our clients are under strict isolation. And their parents are too – sacrificing paid work for an unknown period of time when their financial resources are already strained.

Under the leadership of our amazing Foundation, the Family Support Fund is being doubled so that we can help more families access the funds so they can make ends meet. Donations up to \$20,000 will be matched by the DH Gordon Foundation.

If you're interested in donating, click [here](#).

What should I do if I receive a donation offer/inquiry?

During this challenging time, many people are rallying together to help our most vulnerable population and those who are supporting them.

If you get approached by an interested community member or a business, or receive an email about donation offers/inquiries of in-kind products (i.e. food, flowers, toys, personal protective equipment) please reach out to Molly McKeown at mmckeown@hollandbloorview.ca or Sandra Hawken at SHawken@hollandbloorview.ca from the Foundation. They will be able to determine next steps on gift acceptance, coordinate logistics and donor recognition.

I have a heartfelt story that I would like to share. What can I do?

We've heard stories from many of you about how proud you are to be part of the Holland Bloorview extended family and community at this time.

You've expressed thanks for compassionate and creative colleagues; have heard from families who have commended our innovative approaches to care; and continue to shout-out team members for their resiliency and readiness to help out in new roles.

We want to amplify and share those stories widely - whether it's via our website, social media channels or through media. Please e-mail **#HBStories** and help us transform those hallway conversations into narratives of gratitude.

Food Service updates

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What are Tim Hortons' hour of operation?

Tim Hortons is open Mon-Fri until 4 p.m. and will be closed on the weekend starting. Complimentary coffee will be delivered every evening and twice on weekends to inpatient third floor. Vending machine options are also available on first and third floors (including coffee).

Shifting the hours of Tim Hortons also gives us flexibility to redeploy resources to other initiatives such as the aforementioned free inpatient family caregiver dinners being provided until the end of April.

Why did Sodexo pause all hot food offerings at The Garden Grill?

In an effort to minimize contact and reinforce physical distancing protocols at Holland Bloorview, **Sodexo paused all hot food offerings at The Garden Grill in April.** In its place, they have developed **two new programs** to support our dedicated staff, attentive caregivers and clients during this time of modified service.

Meals to Go Program

Pre-packaged entrees are made available at the cafeteria in the open air fridges for reheating in microwaves at your convenience. Weekly rotational menus will be posted in the café and on HB Connect. From those menus, staff and families can also pre-order precooked single serving meals and family size meals to take home by e-mailing Chef Todd McKinnon at tmckinnon@hollandbloorview.ca by 5 p.m. daily for next-day pick-up in the café between 2-3 p.m.

Grocery to Go Program

Need the essentials but also trying to maintain physical distancing which is hard at grocery stores? Sodexo has you covered at their Pop-Up Grocery store. You'll find everything from fresh produce and dairy products to your everyday pantry items, prepackaged and available at grocery store prices. This pop-up store is located in the salad bar area of the Garden Grill and is available between 7:30 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday-Friday.

If you have any questions or suggestions for items you'd like to have available, please contact Chef Todd McKinnon at tmckinnon@hollandbloorview.ca.

General Health Information

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What should I do if I'm feeling sick with fever, cough, or difficulty breathing?

- Stay home and avoid contact with other, with the exception of seeking medical care.
- If you stay home from work, notify your manager and call Holland Bloorview's AWAY line (x3020).
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when coughing or sneezing.
- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.

What can I do to protect myself from virus spread?

Keep your workspaces clean and hygienic; surfaces and objects (e.g. telephone and keyboards) should be wiped with disinfectant daily. Remember the [4 moments of hand hygiene](#), wash your hands often with soap and water or alcohol-based hand rub for at least 20 seconds. Also, practice physical distancing (2 meters) and wear your mask in public places at all times.

I've been increasingly concerned and nervous with taking transit to work as the COVID-19 situation continues to grow and spread. Wondering what I can do to keep myself and those I serve safe.

We recognize that staff who commute via TTC may feel increased anxiety around potential exposure to COVID-19. We know that the best way to protect yourself is by performing proper hand hygiene and avoiding touching your face, practice physical distancing and wear your mask at all times in public place. Know the TTC has taken extra precautions to protect riders, including enforced mask wearing at all times. They've also posted safety tips on their website on how to take public transit safely during pandemic.

What is the best way to protect myself from COVID-19?

- Stay home if you are feeling sick to avoid spreading illness to others.
- Practice physical distancing
- Wear your mask in public areas at all times
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

- Use alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol content if soap and water are unavailable.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth, especially with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Cough and sneeze into your elbow, not your hands.

Use cleaning products to disinfect objects and surfaces you commonly touch, such as doorknobs, countertops, phones and toys.

What can I do to protect myself and loved ones if a family member in my home is sick?

If someone in your home is ill (with COVID-19 or other seasonal ailments), we recommend the following measures to protect yourself and other members of your family:

- Practicing good hand hygiene
- If possible, practice physical distancing
- Dedicate one bathroom to the person that is sick
- Dispose of tissues as they are used
- Clean and disinfect your kitchen and bathrooms more frequently
- If possible, have the person who is sick wear a procedure mask

Where can I get tested for COVID-19? Are there assessment centres near schools?

Finding a location to get yourself or your child, spouse or family member tested for COVID-19 may be easier than you think. Please refer to [the City of Toronto's assessment centre page](#), which includes helpful information on age restrictions and hours of operation for each centre, to learn more.

Effective September 25, select pharmacies across the province will offer free testing by appointment only to people without symptoms of COVID-19. Please refer to the province's [list of pharmacies](#) participating in this effort for more information, and know that additional pharmacies will offer this service in the coming weeks.

Please refer to this [map](#) for information on assessment centres and their locations in relation to Toronto schools. Assessment centres are red and schools are blue.

Note: effective October 6, all walk-in testing services have stopped. Ontario residents seeking a COVID-19 test must make an appointment at an assessment centre or pharmacy.

General information on the COVID-19

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What is a coronavirus/ novel coronavirus (COVID-19)?

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses that are known to cause illness ranging from the common cold to more severe diseases such as Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) and Severe Acute

Respiratory Syndrome (SARS). A novel coronavirus (COVID-19) is a new strain of coronavirus that has not been previously identified in humans.

What are the symptoms of someone infected with a coronavirus?

Common signs include (but not limited to) respiratory symptoms, fever, cough, shortness of breath, and breathing difficulties. Most cases are mild. In more severe cases, infection can cause pneumonia, severe acute respiratory syndrome, kidney failure and in rare cases death.

Can coronaviruses be transmitted from person to person?

Yes, some coronaviruses can be transmitted from person to person, usually after close contact (two meters) with an infected person. Transmission occurs through droplets when a person coughs or sneezes.

Is there a vaccine available for this infection?

At this time there isn't a vaccine available for the COVID-19.

Are there reliable places I can get more information?

Yes, you can get more information at any of these sites:

- [Public Health Ontario](#)
- [Public Health Agency of Canada](#)
- [Ontario Hospital Association](#)
- [World Health Organization](#)
- [Centres for Disease Control and Prevention](#)

What's the difference between seasonal coronaviruses and Covid-19?

The seasonal coronavirus is NOT the same as the novel coronavirus, COVID-19. Seasonal coronaviruses are common and are typically associated with mild illnesses (including the common cold), and can spread easily between people. Common symptoms include fever, cough, shortness of breath and breathing difficulties. There are strains of coronaviruses that have caused more severe illness in humans in the past, such as Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) and now, the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). COVID-19 is a new strain that has not been previously identified in humans. The most common symptoms of COVID-19 are fever, tiredness, and dry cough.

What are the different types of COVID-19 contact? What do I do in various scenarios?

With community transmission occurring in the province, it's possible to come in contact with presumptive or confirmed positive individuals.

We are most concerned about “close contact” that includes kissing, hugging or sharing eating and drinking utensils, close conversations, contact with secretions, being in the same childcare room, classroom or carpool.

Distance and prolonged exposure are also factors to look out for. For example, if you were standing/sitting within 6 feet from the infected individual and if you’ve spent more than 15 minutes with them.

Here are a few scenarios and recommended procedures to follow if you are suspected to have come into contact with a COVID-19 positive person. In all cases, you can reach out to occupational health for guidance.

1. You’ve received an email from a business you recently visited to inform you that one of their employees has tested positive for COVID-19.

- If you are currently asymptomatic, you can still come to work and follow appropriate infection prevention and control protocols, going through active screening and wearing appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE).
- In most stores, many procedures are put in place to practice safe physical distancing and minimize the risk of community spread like lines on the floor to mark two meters of distance, Plexiglas barriers, staff wearing PPE, mandatory masks for everyone entering the store, etc.

2. You test positive for COVID-19

- Occupational health will advise you to isolate yourself at home/hospital for 14 days since symptom onset or until a negative test result is received and no new/worsening symptoms develop.
- Follow the guidance of public health and Holland Bloorview’s occupational health team.

3. Your spouse tests positive and you’re asymptomatic.

- This is considered direct contact. You would be advised to stay home and self-monitor for 14 days. In this case, your coworkers are not considered a contact, hence no further action is required.

4. Your spouse tests positive, you are symptomatic and have tested positive yourself.

- Occupational health and infection control will advise you to stay at home and will initiate the contact tracing process at Holland Bloorview. Only individuals who you have been in direct contact with would be contacted with information on next steps.

5. You have direct contact (examples include kissing, hugging or sharing eating and drinking utensils, close conversations, contact with secretions, being in the same childcare room, classroom or carpool) with a COVID-19 individual?

- Occupational health will advise you to self-isolate at home for 14 days from contact with positive individual and monitor yourself for symptom development.
- Work self-isolation is a possibility where you would maintain self-isolation measures outside of work for 14 days but you may be able to attend work while adhering to universal masking recommendations, meticulous hand hygiene and maintaining physical distancing except in care provision. This would be determined on a case-by-case basis based on staffing needs and client safety.
- If you become symptomatic, please stay home, contact the AWAY line at ext. 3020 and follow the direction of occupational health.

As a reminder, if you are symptomatic in any way, please stay home and call the AWAY line at ext. 3020 to report your symptoms and wait for further direction from occupational health.

If you are unsure of what you should do, please reach out to occupational health or leave a request for a call back at the away line.