

## Status of Covid-19 directives and guidelines in Ontario

June 27, 2022

This document was created by the South East IPAC Hub and Spoke by compiling and consolidating all available information from the Ministry of Health/Ministry of Long Term Care's [COVID 19 Guidance for Health Sector website](#) as of June 27, 2022. It is not intended to supersede the original guidance or your local public health department.

### Directives

CMOH directives #1, #2.1, #3, #4, and #5 have all been revoked.

### All healthcare settings

Directives #1, #4, and #5 set out the required personal protective equipment (PPE) and other precautions for the care of suspect or confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the health sector. They have now been replaced by a new guideline from the Ministry of Health: "[COVID-19 Guidance: Personal Protective Equipment \(PPE\) for Health Care Workers and Health Care Entities](#)," version 1, June 11, 2022. The new guideline is based on PHO's technical brief: "[Interim IPAC Recommendations for Use of Personal Protective Equipment for Care of Individuals with Suspect or Confirmed COVID-19](#)," updated on June 11, 2022.

Given changes to covid-19 transmission risk in the communities, all healthcare settings are to follow recommendations in PHO's "[Interim Infection Prevention and Control Measures based on COVID-19 Transmission Risks in Health Care Settings](#)" unless specific guidance is provided.

Covid-19 cases and contacts should be managed according to MoH's "[Management of Cases and Contacts of COVID-19 in Ontario](#)" guideline.

### LTC

Directive #3 set out the required precautions and procedures specific to LTC and RH. There is no replacement guideline for this directive; however, a directive from the minister of LTC is still in effect which covers similar content and resource references: "[Minister's Directive: COVID-19 response measures for long-term care homes](#)." The directive requires LTC homes to follow the "[COVID-19 guidance document for long-term care homes in Ontario](#)," which has been updated to remove references to Directive #3. There is no major change in required precautions.

### RH

RH are to follow the new [Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility COVID-19 Guidance Document for Retirement Homes in Ontario](#), released on June 24, 2022.

### LTC and RH

LTC and RH are to continue following guidance in the updated ministry of health's "[COVID-19 Guidance: Long-Term Care Homes and Retirement Homes for Public Health Units](#)" document.

The [COVID-19 Screening Tool for Long-Term Care Homes and Retirement Homes](#) has also been updated

**Acute care settings**

The [COVID-19 Guidance: Acute Care](#) document has been updated to reflect the expiry of directives

**Other congregate care settings**

The [COVID-19 Guidance: Congregate Living for Vulnerable Populations](#) has been updated to reflect the expiry of directives.

**Table with select summary of current guidance:**

	<b>LTC</b>	<b>RH</b>	<b>Acute care</b>	<b>Congregate living</b>
Universal masking indoors	Required for staff and visitors. Recommended for residents	Required for staff and visitors. Recommended for residents	Based on transmission risk or hospital policy	Recommended
Masking outdoors	Recommended	Recommended	Not applicable	Recommended
Physical distancing	Required	Required	Based on transmission risk	Encouraged, depending on circumstances.
Communal dining	Allowed; guests must stay masked at all times	Allowed	Not applicable	No guidance
Group activities	Allowed, with distancing and masking	Allowed, with distancing and masking	Not applicable	No guidance
Active screening of staff and visitors	Required	Required	Not required as of June 30, or as directed by hospital policy	Required
Asymptomatic Rapid Antigen Testing of staff and visitors	Required	Recommended for staff, not for	Not required as of June 30, or as	Not required

		visitors or residents	directed by hospital policy	
Daily symptom screening of residents or patients, including temperature checks	Required	Required	Required	Required
Vaccination	Individual facility policy	Individual facility policy	Individual facility policy	Individual facility policy
Vaccination for outdoor visits and visits by children under 5 years	Cannot restrict visitors	Individual facility policy	Individual facility policy	Individual facility policy
Outbreak preparedness plan	Required	Required	Required	No guidance
IPAC program	Required	Required	Required	No guidance
General IPAC procedures (routine and additional precautions)	Required	Required	Required	Required
IPAC lead	Required	Recommended	Required	No guidance
IPAC self-audits	Required	Required	Required	No guidance
IPAC standard for LTC	Required	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
Alcohol-based hand rub	Required	Required	Required	Required
PPE for suspected/confirmed covid	N95 mask, face protection, gown, gloves	N95 mask, face protection, gown, gloves	N95 mask, face protection, gown, gloves	N95 mask, face protection, gown, gloves
Universal eye protection	Only required during an outbreak for direct care.	Only required during an outbreak for direct care.	Based on point of care risk assessment and facility policy	Based on point of care risk assessment and facility policy
Admissions and transfers	Required to follow <a href="#">COVID-19 Guidance: Long-Term Care Homes and Retirement Homes for Public Health Units</a>	Required to follow <a href="#">Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility's COVID-19 Guidance Document for</a>	Required to follow <a href="#">COVID-19 Guidance: Long-Term Care Homes and Retirement</a>	Required to follow <a href="#">COVID-19 Guidance: Congregate Living for Vulnerable Populations</a>

		<a href="#">Retirement Homes in Ontario</a>	<a href="#">Homes for Public Health Units</a>	
Visitor restrictions	Required. As per <a href="#">COVID-19 guidance document for long-term care homes in Ontario</a>	Required to follow <a href="#">Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility's COVID-19 Guidance Document for Retirement Homes in Ontario</a>	At the discretion of individual facility, depending on transmission risk	Masking recommended
Restrictions after absences	Required. As per <a href="#">COVID-19 guidance document for long-term care homes in Ontario</a> and for residents who fail screening on return, admit and follow <a href="#">Management of Cases and Contacts of COVID-19 in Ontario</a> guidance	Required to follow <a href="#">Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility's COVID-19 Guidance Document for Retirement Homes in Ontario</a>	Not applicable	Required to follow <a href="#">COVID-19 Guidance: Congregate Living for Vulnerable Populations</a>
Management of cases and contacts	Required to follow " <a href="#">COVID-19 Guidance: Long-Term Care Homes and Retirement Homes for Public Health Units</a> " And " <a href="#">Management of Cases and Contacts of</a>	Required to follow " <a href="#">COVID-19 Guidance: Long-Term Care Homes and Retirement Homes for Public Health Units</a> " And " <a href="#">Management of Cases and Contacts of</a>	Required to follow " <a href="#">Management of Cases and Contacts of COVID-19 in Ontario</a> "	Required to follow " <a href="#">Management of Cases and Contacts of COVID-19 in Ontario</a> "

	<a href="#">COVID-19 in Ontario</a> "	<a href="#">COVID-19 in Ontario</a> "		
Outbreak management	Required to follow " <a href="#">COVID-19 Guidance: Long-Term Care Homes and Retirement Homes for Public Health Units</a> " And " <a href="#">Management of Cases and Contacts of COVID-19 in Ontario</a> "	Required to follow " <a href="#">COVID-19 Guidance: Long-Term Care Homes and Retirement Homes for Public Health Units</a> " And " <a href="#">Management of Cases and Contacts of COVID-19 in Ontario</a> "	Required to follow " <a href="#">Management of Cases and Contacts of COVID-19 in Ontario</a> "	Required to follow " <a href="#">Management of Cases and Contacts of COVID-19 in Ontario</a> "