

RESPIRATORY VIRUS MASKING GUIDANCE

Emerging and Re-emerging Infections Network (ERIN)

Spring & Summer 2024

Reducing the risk of transmission of respiratory viruses is everyone's responsibility. This spring and summer, continue to keep everybody safe using the points below.

MASKING GUIDANCE

Mask during patient interactions:

- Based on the [Point-of-Care Risk Assessment \(PCRA\)](#), completed for all patient interactions. Check out this [Instructional Video](#) for more information.
- As required for additional precautions, or
- If the patient, resident, client or essential care partner is wearing a mask, or if they ask you to wear one.



PRE-APPOINTMENT PATIENT SCREENING

Respiratory screening prior to an in-person appointment at a Nova Scotia Health facility:

- Screening criteria can be provided in a letter to the patient prior to an appointment, or
- Phone screening can be completed in advance of the appointment.



RETURN TO WORK GUIDANCE

Healthcare workers who have tested positive for COVID:

- Must remain off work for 5 days following symptom onset or date of test.
- Upon return to work, they must wear a mask up to and including day 10.

Healthcare workers experiencing symptoms of respiratory illness who have tested negative for COVID:

- Must remain off work until symptoms have improved or resolved and are fever-free for 24 hours.
- Upon return to work, they must wear a mask up to and including day 10.

For additional guidance on communicable diseases contact the zone Occupational Health Safety & Wellness department.

VISIT THE ERIN HUB!

