

To: Long-Term Care and Retirement Homes
Subject: Use of Eye Protection in Long-Term Care and Retirement Homes
Date: November 26, 2020

In addition to universal masking requirements, Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health is strongly recommending that staff and people providing services in Long-Term Care and Retirement Homes wear eye protection in indoor spaces when 2 meters distancing cannot be maintained with another person who is not wearing a mask or face covering, and when an impermeable barrier, like plexiglass, is not in place.

This recommendation is in alignment with [Ontario Regulation 364/20](#):

Businesses and Places - General Compliance

2. (7). *A person shall wear appropriate personal protective equipment that provides protection of the person's eyes, nose and mouth, if in the course of providing services, the person,*

- (a) is required to come within 2 metres of another person who is not wearing a mask or face covering in a manner that covers the person's mouth, nose and chin during any period when that person is in an indoor area; and*
- (b) is not separated by plexiglass or some other impermeable barrier from a person described in clause (a).*

Staff and people who are providing services in Long-Term Care and Retirement Homes should wear eye protection, in addition to other personal protective equipment indicated for providing direct care to residents. Eye protection includes goggles or face shields. Consider if residents can consistently maintain 2 metres distancing, and whether it would be appropriate for staff and people providing services to wear eye protection at all times while working in your facility.

Long-Term Care and Retirement Homes are expected to follow CMOH Directive #5 for appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) use. For health professionals, a Point-of-care risk assessment (PCRA) should always be the final determinant of what PPE should be worn.

Please integrate this updated recommendation into your existing procedures regarding PPE use and consult with Occupational Health and Safety at your facility, as appropriate.

Additional Resources:

1. Ontario Government - [Ontario Regulation 364/20: Rules for Areas in Stage 3](#).
2. Chief Medical Officer of Health [COVID-19 Directive #5 for Hospitals within the meaning of the Public Hospitals Act and Long-Term Care Homes within the meaning of the Long-Term Care Homes Act, 2007](#) (October 8, 2020)
3. Public Health Ontario – [IPAC Recommendations for Use of Personal Protective Equipment for Care of Individuals with Suspect or Confirmed COVID-19](#) (July 27, 2020)

For more information, contact: congregatesetting@wdgpublichealth.ca