

INFECTIOUS DISEASE AND INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL COVID-19 COMMITTEE

Bulletin #218 – COVID-19 – ID-IPC Update

Dec. 20, 2022

As the COVID-19 virus continues to evolve, the IPC response is adapting, and protocols are being de-escalated in a practical manner with a focus on patient and health care worker safety.

Health Care Workers (HCWs) and Physicians Working in Multiple Facilities

On April 7, 2022, the Department of Health issued a memo advising that HCWs and physicians were no longer restricted to only work in one facility. This includes when a facility is in an outbreak situation.

HCWs and physicians can safely work in more than one facility to ensure resources are available in facilities when needed, provided the following safety measures are followed:

- 1) The number of health care workers caring for COVID-19 patients should be minimized whenever possible.
- 2) HCWs should be grouped to work only with COVID-19 patients whenever possible.
- 3) HCWs working in an outbreak unit/facility should contact IPC and arrange for a PPE competency refresher.
- 4) Upon return to work at Horizon facility, the employee should:
 - a) continue to undergo daily symptom self-monitoring and if symptomatic, refer to the [Health Care Worker Scenario Guidelines](#) and arrange for PCR testing.
 - b) follow EHS [COVID-19 and Influenza HCW Guidelines](#) for direction on returning work.
 - c) follow work isolation guidelines below when required:
 - Wear your mask at all times unless eating or drinking
 - Perform hand hygiene frequently
 - Where possible maintain physical distancing and limit non-essential contact with staff and patients. Avoid meeting spaces and lunchrooms.
 - Eating and drinking must take place in a private area. If you cannot find a place to eat or drink alone, ensure there is two-metre distancing from others while your mask is off. Please don your mask immediately after consuming food and drink.
 - Use public washrooms rather than staff washrooms, as the former are cleaned on a more frequent and scheduled basis. If unable to do this, staff washrooms can be used if the health care worker cleans high touch areas in washroom after use.

Please visit the [IPC Resources COVID-19 Skyline page](#) for COVID-19 information.