

Pembroke Regional Hospital

MEMO

To: All Staff and Physicians
From: Infection Prevention and Control & Occupational Health and Safety
Date: Monday January 20th, 2025
Subject: Influenza Outbreak Declared – Medical Unit

Today, the Pembroke Regional Hospital, in collaboration with the Renfrew County and District Health Unit, declared an influenza outbreak on the Medical Unit.

In order to prevent further transmission of influenza on this unit and protect the health and safety of our patients and staff, the following outbreak management strategies have been implemented:

- Staff and physicians are required to wear a mask (procedure/ surgical) all times while on the medical unit;
- General visitation to the medical unit is not permitted. Essential caregivers are permitted but must comply with masking requirements at all times and any additional personal protective equipment that is required based on the posted signage at the entrance to the patient's room;
- Influenza cases must be restricted to their room during the infectious period (ie. while isolated on Droplet + Contact Precautions);
- All unvaccinated patients admitted to the medical unit (including new admissions) should be considered for and if appropriate, offered antiviral prophylaxis and influenza vaccination by the most responsible physician.
- Any patient who develops new respiratory symptoms must be placed on Droplet + Contact precautions, and the physician and Infection Prevention and Control Team must be notified.

In accordance with PRH Policy, additional safety measures must be implemented for **unimmunized** health care workers. The following guidelines apply to all staff (including support services) who are working on the medical unit and have not received their annual influenza vaccine this season:

- Additional Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) must be worn continuously on the medical unit. This includes eye protection at all times in addition to strict adherence to universal masking while on the medical unit.
- Any unvaccinated staff member or physician working on the medical unit who

wishes to receive the influenza vaccine and/ or antiviral prophylaxis should contact the Occupational Health and Safety Team at ext 8200.

In order to prevent transmission of Influenza and other respiratory illnesses, please be mindful of the following routine safety practices:

- Perform Hand hygiene regularly and in compliance with the 4 moments (before patient/ patient environment contact, before aseptic procedure, after body fluid exposure risk, and after patient/ patient environment contact);
- Ensure shared equipment is thoroughly cleaned and disinfected between patients.
- Perform a point of care risk assessment prior to every patient interaction and choose additional PPE as indicated to minimize your risk of exposure.

As a reminder to all staff and physicians, the influenza vaccine remains available through the Occupational Health Department. Please contact ext 8200 or email: OccHealth@prh.email to book a vaccine appointment.