



Covenant Health
Grey Nuns
Community Hospital

DATE: February 21, 2025
TO: GNCH – All Staff, Physicians, Volunteers, Students and Contractors
FROM: ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ Senior Operating Officer, Acute Services, GNCH
RE: Implementation of Enhanced Masking Directive at the Grey Nuns Hospital

Effective February 21, 2025 the decision has been made to implement enhanced masking at the Grey Nuns Community Hospital by Site Leadership in collaboration with Covenant Health and Zone Executive Leadership, following the [directive](#) issued by AHS/Covenant Health. We are taking a proactive approach considering the criteria in the directive, including:

- Rate of hospitalizations in people with respiratory viruses;
- Respiratory virus outbreak number, site and impact;
- Percentage of beds occupied by patients with respiratory viruses;
- Test positivity; and
- Continual overcapacity operating at surge levels.

This means all Covenant Health staff, physicians, volunteers, students and contractors will be required to mask in areas of the facility where we provide patient care. Enhanced masking will also be required for all patients, designated family/support persons and visitors in the Emergency Department.

In addition to enhanced masking, [IPC Routine Practices and Additional Precautions](#) and [outbreak management guidelines](#) still apply. Wearing a mask is optional but strongly encouraged in areas where there is no patient contact (staff break/meeting rooms, corporate settings, health records department), and staff can continue to use the Infection Prevention and Control Risk Assessment (IPC RA) to make personal protective equipment decisions in any area.

All team members and visitors are asked to [stay home when sick](#), wear required PPE where designated and practice good hand hygiene. We will continue to monitor the ongoing risk factors and communicate any changes to the masking requirements.

The safety of our health care workers, patients, residents and greater community is always our number one priority and these safety measures will remain in place to help limit the spread of COVID-19 and other respiratory illnesses, especially to the vulnerable patient populations that we care for.

For more information, please visit the [Respiratory Illness CompassionNET page](#).

Thank you for your ongoing support. When we practice community care, we create an environment that promotes the safety and well-being of everyone.