

## Masking and Screening Changes at Riverside

Riverside Health Care is pleased to announce the implementation of updated protocols for masking and screening based on recent data showcasing a general improvement in the prevalence and impact of respiratory illnesses in the province. Effective immediately, these changes are aimed at providing a more efficient and effective healthcare experience while ensuring the safety and well-being of our patients, residents, clients, staff, and visitors.

All sites are removing kiosk screening and implementing passive self-screening measures. Everyone is required to self-screen prior to entering Riverside facilities. People with fever, cough, sore throat, or other flu-like symptoms are asked to not visit unless they are seeking care within a facility.

Universal masking at La Verendrye General Hospital (LVGH) will no longer be required, except for clinical staff when providing direct patient care.

All people presenting to the Emergency Department at LVGH for care will still be required to wear a medical mask. Inpatient admissions will no longer be required to take a rapid antigen test (RAT) for COVID-19; only if symptomatic then will they require a PCR test.

Masks will continue to be available at all hospital facilities for those who would like to wear one, and individuals will be respected in their decision to do so.

In accordance with the Ontario Ministry of Health, Rainycrest and the Emo and Rainy River Health Centres are still mandated to implement universal masking for staff and visitors in all areas of those facilities. As we receive updates from the Ministry, Riverside will revise masking protocols accordingly.

Like all policies and practices, these changes will be subject to ongoing evaluation in relation to the spread of respiratory infections and will be revisited if needed. All decisions will continue to be based on public health guidance and provincial direction.

The health and safety of our staff, patients, residents, clients, and visitors remain our top priority. Thank you for your continued dedication and commitment, together we can adapt to these new updates and ensure a safe environment for all.

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Riverside Health Care

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