



The implementation of continuous masking took place on April 14, 2020 requiring all health care workforce to wear a **medical mask** at all times while in clinical care areas. Since that time, we have seen an increase in COVID-19 cases in our health care facilities and communities. In an effort to mitigate transmission of COVID-19 and to protect the health and safety of staff and physicians, as well as our patients, residents and clients, we are further expanding our continuous masking guidelines.

**Update:** Health care workforce will be required to wear a medical mask at all times inside any SHA building and facility, unless eating and/or drinking. This includes public/common areas (e.g., elevators, hallways, lobbies, cafeterias/food court areas), meeting rooms and break rooms. Refer to [Expanded Continuous Masking Talking Points and FAQs](#) for more details.

### What is in place and who does it apply to?

All health care workforce will be required to wear a medical mask on entry to and at all times inside an SHA facility, including in public/common areas, meeting rooms and break rooms, unless eating and/or drinking.

### What do you need to know?

1. Where applicable, health care workforce will follow Public Health Orders for masking requirements. In the event the Public Health Order conflicts with the Expanded Continuous Masking Guidelines, the health care workforce will follow the more stringent guidelines (Refer to the most current [Public Health Order](#))
2. Health care workforce will be required to wear a medical mask at all times on entry to and inside any SHA facility, including in public/common areas, meeting rooms and break rooms, unless eating and/or drinking.
3. Health care workforce who work in administrative areas with no patient contact and who can consistently and reliably maintain two metre physical distancing from others are exempt from wearing a mask while in their office/workstation. However, when they leave their office/workstation they must put on a medical mask.
4. Medical masks need to be changed when wet, damaged or soiled. Discard when taking scheduled breaks and at the end of the shift.
5. There is currently no limit to the number of masks that will be provided, but judicious use according the [Continuous and Extended PPE Use](#) guidelines is strongly encouraged.
6. The re-use of medical masks is NOT acceptable at this time due to the risk of self-contamination if the process of safely doffing, storing and re-donning is not followed carefully.
7. Cloth masks are not approved for use in SHA operated facilities.
8. The use of a face shield or clear face mask is not an acceptable alternative to wearing a medical mask.
9. The use of physical barriers (e.g., Plexiglas) is not a substitute for continuous masking.
10. Questions related to personal protective equipment (PPE) requirements may be directed to your manager or supervisor.

