



The Safety Bulletin has been created to provide ongoing direction to health care workers regarding the recommended safety guidelines, processes and personal protective equipment (PPE) supply. If you have any questions about PPE, Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) or safety as it relates to COVID-19 please call the OHS Hotline at 1-833-233-4403 or email

OHS_Healthcareworkers_COVID19@saskhealthauthority.ca or infectioncontrol@saskhealthauthority.ca

Reopen SK... What happens in SHA after July 11?

On July 11, 2021, Saskatchewan entered Phase 3 of the Re-open Saskatchewan Roadmap. All remaining Public Health Orders have now been removed, including mandatory masking.

However, guidance for the general public is not healthcare guidance and is **not intended to be applied in the health-care setting** where extra precautions are necessary to protect vulnerable patient and resident populations, as well as your colleagues.

The health and safety of staff, patients/residents/clients, and families remains our top priority. COVID-19 will not be disappearing when the Public Health Order and masking mandate for the public is lifted on July 11. Guidelines for PPE and screening have played, and will continue to play, an important role in the prevention of COVID-19 transmission in healthcare as it is a critical component in the Hierarchy of Controls.

As per the Emergency Operation Centre (EOC) Directive, after July 11:

- **All health-care workers (HCW) working in SHA facilities or performing any SHA service (ex: home care, immunization clinics) are required to continue following current continuous masking guidelines and eye protection recommendations.**
- All SHA HCWs are required to continue to do the [Daily Fitness for Work](#) screening before each shift.
- All those who enter an SHA facility must complete screening and follow the screening recommendations.
- **All those who enter an SHA facility will be required to wear a medical grade face mask** for the duration of their stay in the facility. Facilities include all hospitals, vaccine clinics, out-patient clinics, etc. Visitors who refuse to wear a mask will be denied access to the facility. Patients may remove their masks when they are in their own room.
- Residents, family and visitors in SHA long-term care (LTC) homes and affiliates ONLY, are not required but are strongly encouraged to wear a mask, particularly if the resident or visitor is not fully vaccinated or physical distance cannot be maintained
- **Staff working in LTC homes MUST continue to follow continuous masking guidelines and eye protection recommendations and daily COVID-19 screening.**
- There will be no limits to the number of family/support persons or visitors that can be present at one time. Larger group visits in common areas may have to be scheduled in advance, please contact the home ahead of time to ensure that there is adequate and appropriate space available. The timing of visits and number that can be present at one





time may vary in long term care homes based on considerations such as space, screening, and/or cleaning.

- SHA Acute Care facilities will continue to follow Level One Family Presence guidelines with the goal to further ease restrictions as soon as it is safe to do so.
- Fully vaccinated staff are still required to follow continuous masking and eye protection guidelines - COVID-19, and the Delta Variant, transmission has been documented in health care settings between fully-vaccinated people.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Why do LTC homes have different rules than other SHA Facilities?

LTC homes are different as they are considered the residents' homes. It is important to provide them the same opportunities to visit family and friends as the rest of the province has.

I'm a physician with privileges at acute care sites. Do I have to continue to mask and be screened when I enter an acute care facility?

Yes. Everyone entering any SHA facility needs to wear a medical grade mask and complete screening upon entry to the facility.

Will family presence restrictions change for Acute Care on July 11?

No. Acute care family presence will remain at Level 1; two family members/supports can be designated with one present at a time. Family presence restrictions are reviewed weekly with the goal of easing restrictions as soon as it is safe to do so.

What does Level One Family Presence mean?

Level One means that each patient can designate two essential family members/supports. These people can both visit the patient but only one person at a time. Additional family members/supports can be designated for intensive care, and palliative care. Two people can be present at one time for intensive care, palliative care, and maternal/children's. The full description of the levels can be found on the [Family Presence website](#).

How many family members/visitors can each person in a LTC home have at one time?

There is no limit to the number of family members/visitors that can be present at one time. Long term care homes may have scheduling limitations; families/visitors are encouraged to call ahead. Larger group visits in common areas may have to be scheduled in advance, so please contact the home ahead of time to ensure that there is adequate and appropriate space available. This is the same practice as before the COVID-19 pandemic.

