

# SAFETY TALK

## CONTINUE THE GOOD WORK



### DID YOU KNOW?

COVID-19 continues to be active in our province\*\*. As healthcare workers, we all have the ability and a responsibility to protect our patients, residents, clients, co-workers, family, and friends. We can achieve this by reevaluating our day to day work and our surroundings to reveal areas of potential improvement that could help fight the spread of COVID 19 and keep our patients, residents and colleagues healthy.

### YOU NEED TO KNOW:

- In the last 24 hrs, if you have you had any of the following symptoms, do not come to work:
  - ◇ Fever (temperature  $\geq 38.0$  Celsius)?
  - ◇ New or worsening respiratory symptoms NOT RELATED to seasonal or environmental allergies i.e. cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, sore throat, runny nose?
  - ◇ New onset atypical symptoms including: chills, aches and pains, headache, loss of sense of smell or taste, diarrhea, nausea/vomiting, loss of appetite, fatigue or weakness?
- There are common areas where staff are at high risk of letting down their guard, including:
  - ◇ Change rooms/locker rooms, shower rooms
  - ◇ Lunch rooms, meeting rooms, lounge areas
  - ◇ Administrative/office settings
  - ◇ Staff entrances/exits, informal congregational areas, smoking areas
  - ◇ Carpooling, shuttle service
  - ◇ Laundry/dietary areas, and storage/housekeeping areas

### QUESTION ?

WHAT AREAS CAN YOU THINK OF IN YOUR WORKPLACE OR FACILITY WHERE STAFF MAY DRIFT FROM COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS AND CONTINUOUS MASKING REQUIREMENTS?

#### Remember to wear your mask and social distance in these areas.

- Shared beverage dispensers (e.g. coffee pots/water coolers) may be used, provided they are cleaned frequently, hands are cleaned before accessing, and masks are worn until staff is seated and appropriately distanced.
- Personal items (i.e. cell phones/[water bottles](#)) should not be in clinical environments.
- According to [Continuous Masking Principles and Guidelines](#), a mask should be on prior to entering an SHA facility, passing through all public/common areas, and travelling to and from washroom facilities. Health care workforce are no longer required to wear a mask in **non-clinical areas/departments** where patients are not present as long as two metres physical distancing can be maintained or physical barriers are in place between workstations.
- Refer to the [PPE Guidelines for Staff in All Health Care Settings\\* during COVID-19](#), which outlines the PPE requirements for different activities and work areas.
- Cleaning of high touch surfaces are everyone's responsibility. Sanitization include: coffee machines, fridge handles, tables, chairs, keyboards, mice, telephones/cell phones, door handles, sink faucets, microwaves, staplers, writing tools, slings/lifting devices, remotes etc.
- Breaks and lunches should be staggered to help ensure physical distancing.

**INFORMATION SOURCE:** \*\*COVID-19 Integrated Epidemiology Situation Report July 21, 2022.

**RELEVANT LEGISLATION:** Saskatchewan Employment Act 3-10



**WEEKLY TOPIC:** Continue the good work

**DATE:**

**FACILITY:**

**DEPARTMENT:**

**SAFETY TALK CONDUCTED BY:**

## ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

WHAT IS THE MAXIMUM NUMBER OF STAFF ALLOWED IN OUR BREAK ROOMS?

HOW OFTEN DO HIGH TOUCH SURFACES IN STAFF AREAS GET CLEANED AND DISINFECTED? HOW IS THIS COMMUNICATED?

WHAT UNIT/DEPARTMENT SPECIFIC MEASURES CAN WE TAKE TO REDUCE TRANSMISSION?

**SAFETY TALK NOTES:**

**WORKERS PRESENT:**

**WORKER CONCERNS:**



Saskatchewan  
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*[Safety Talks can be found on the SHA Intranet](#)*

August 25, 2022