

What's the Current Situation?

All visitors should be aware that this influenza season is expected to be severe because Covid 19, Influenza A & B and RSV are all circulating resulting in a “tridemic” for the 2023-2024 season. While case numbers have dropped over the summer, we are seeing an increase in people testing positive on rapid tests 48 hours post symptom onset.

Current list of symptoms includes: Cough (new or worsening) Fever, Shortness of Breath or difficulty Breathing, Loss or Change in Sense of Taste and Smell, Sore throat, Runny Nose, Nasal Congestion Excessive Sneezing, Headache (new not chronic) Muscle aches, nausea, vomiting or diarrhea. Many folks are reporting severe headache, eye pain, significant nasal congestions, coughing and fever.

Currently we have several staff off ill with either Covid-19 or an unidentified respiratory illness and one resident who had a confirmed case of COVID-19. Our Oceanview Neighbourhood was in outbreak mode and that was lifted by Public Health on Oct 16th, 2023.

What is Seaview Manor (SVM) doing to protect its residents and staff?

With the busy respiratory season ahead of us, once again we are facing a tridemic (COVID-19, Influenza and RSV). SVM will be reinstating Mandatory Medical Masking for **ALL STAFF AND VISITORS, effective immediately.**

Wearing a medical mask can help prevent the spread of COVID-19 and other respiratory illness. A medical mask helps stop infectious droplets from spreading when someone speaks, laughs, coughs, or sneezes including someone who has COVID 19 but has no obvious symptoms.

This masking requirement will be no different than the past 3 years. There is no eating or drinking in the presence of residents while you are visiting.

What happens if I don't want to wear a mask?

- First you put yourself and others at unnecessary risk.
- Failure to comply with this requirement will result in corrective action but ongoing infractions associated with not wearing your mask as required may result in discontinuing your visiting privileges.

Where will masks be located?

- Medical Grade Masks will be located at the front entrance.
- Please put on the mask before entering the inside front entrance doors

What are Our Responsibilities as staff here at SVM?

To ensure we do everything we can to protect our residents and our co-workers all staff are required to:

- Passively screen themselves before reporting for work. **This is a mandatory requirement.**
- **NOT** come to work if you are symptomatic (as per symptoms above) or are otherwise unwell. If in doubt, check it out.
- **NOT** to come to work sick in a mask.
- Directed to inform their supervisor should they become ill during their shift, leave the facility immediately and **NOT remove their masks** until they have exited the building well beyond the entrance or proximity to any other person.

As a Visitor What Best Practice MUST I follow?

All visitors are required to adhere to the following:

- Participate in passive screening at home for the presence of any respiratory symptoms before visiting Seaview Manor.
- **When symptomatic with respiratory symptoms STAY home**
- Test yourself with a rapid test if available and do so no sooner than 48 hours after symptom onset. Testing too early may result in a false negative result.
- At all times perform scrupulous Hand Hygiene when on site at Seaview Manor especially on entering and exiting a resident's room and the building.
- Coughing /Sneezing Etiquette (in your sleeve or tissue)
- **Masking at all times** while visiting anywhere within Seaview Manor and when travelling in the hallways.
- Ensuring your mask covers your nose and under your chin and is not too loose around your cheek area.

Why Should I keep up with immunizations?

- Vaccines help provide immunity before we are exposed to potentially harmful diseases such as annual influenza, COVID-19 and RSV.
- We strongly encourage all visitors to take advantage of vaccinations clinics (e.g. community clinics at pharmacies or clinics held by your physician or public health) to keep up to date with annual vaccines and boosters.

Who do I report to if I test positive for COVID 19?

- Immediately contact our Covid Administrative Coordinator, Erin Sudworth at 902-849-7300 at extension 250 during normal business hours (Monday-Friday 0830-1630).
- Contact the RN in-Charge at 902-849-7300 Ext 226 outside of normal business hours.

- We will provide you with information about when it will be safe for you to return visiting Seaview Manor.

What reference was used to help prepare the content of this FAQ?

- The 2023/2024 A Guide to Respiratory Virus Infection and Outbreak Management in LTC facilities continues to be the best practice document.

Thank you!!