



Tehshakotitsén:tha Kateri Memorial Hospital Centre

Established 1905

KMHC announces END to mask mandate

For immediate release

(Kahnawake – 13, Onerahtohkó:wa/May, 2024) Tehsakotitsén:tha Kateri Memorial Hospital Centre is pleased to announce that mask-wearing will become OPTIONAL beginning today, Monday, 13th of May, 2024.

The recommendation on masks was re-evaluated based on the recent decline of incidence of respiratory infections, including COVID-19, in Kahnawà:ke, surrounding areas, and within KMHC.

The Public Health Unit (KMHC) team recommends that masks are no longer required within clinical areas. **A mask remains required in the following situations:**

Healthcare workers:

- In presence of all patients/family members who present or develop symptoms of a respiratory infection*.
- Following high-risk exposure to a case of COVID-19 without adequate protection for 10 days following an exposure (in this case a N95 respirator is necessary).
- On units with a respiratory virus outbreak. (N95 respirator is recommended for COVID-19 outbreak; a procedure mask is recommended for other respiratory virus outbreak.
- Any healthcare worker with infectious symptoms should not be present at work until the resolution of symptoms. The healthcare worker needs to be tested for COVID-19 and optional for other respiratory viruses at the testing center.

For Patients:

- In the presence of symptoms of a respiratory infection*.
- On units with a COVID-19 or other respiratory virus outbreak when a healthcare worker is present.
- Masks for severely immunocompromised, even in the absence of symptoms.

Visitors, caregivers, family members:

- Visitors, caregivers, or family members should be screened for symptoms of upper respiratory tract infections. If symptoms are present, they should postpone their visit until they are fully recovered, unless essential. If essential, the symptomatic visitor, caregiver or family member must always wear a procedure mask.

KMHC would like to acknowledge the community and staff for maintaining the safest environment possible throughout the mask mandate. Your compliance to the policy has helped us keep our more vulnerable populations safe and protected. Niawenhkó:wa!

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For further information on this release, please contact:

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