

Memo of the President & CEO and Chief of Staff

Subject: PPE Update

Date: January 23, 2021

Although the variants of COVID-19 have not been discovered yet in Windsor-Essex we are concerned of their prevalence and possible spread especially due to the lack of clear evidence on mechanism resulting in increased transmission.

As always we want to be proactive rather than reactive.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/transmission/variant.html>

In the United Kingdom (UK), a new variant called B.1.1.7 has emerged with an unusually large number of mutations. This variant spreads more easily and quickly than other variants. It has since been detected in numerous countries around the world, including the United States and Canada.

In South Africa, another variant called 1.351 has emerged independently of the variant detected in the UK. This variant, originally detected in early October, shares some mutations with the variant detected in the UK. There have been cases caused by this variant outside of South Africa, but it has not been detected in the US.

In Brazil, a variant called P.1 emerged and was identified in four travelers from Brazil, who were tested during routine screening at Haneda airport outside Tokyo, Japan. This variant contains a set of additional mutations that may affect its ability to be recognized by antibodies. This variant has not been detected in the US.

As a result, in effect immediately, N95 or P100 respirator plus face protection (face shield or goggles) to be used for the following:

- √ **Confirmed COVID-19 cases**
- √ **High suspect cases (i.e. travel, symptomatic, or contact with a COVID-19 case)**
- √ **All patients receiving AGMP or high risk procedures, regardless of COVID test results**



In addition we are recommending that N95 be discarded, or in case of P100 be removed, and cleaned prior to reuse following AGMP or high risk procedures and replaced with clean N95 or P100.

Prior to cohorting any patient, COVID-19 positive or negative, that has an AGMP active consult IPAC.

All policies will be updated to reflect this guidance, in the meantime this memo should override previous direction.

