## COVID-19: Recent Update – Thursday, September 3, 2020

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## Face Coverings should be worn in all Public/Common Areas

Employers should consider requiring face coverings in all public/common areas including hallways, washrooms, etc.

In early July, the World Health Organization updated a scientific brief to say that it doesn't rule out the possibility of airborne transmission in crowded areas or indoor venues with poor ventilation. Since then, researchers have found evidence to suggest that airborne transmission of COVID-19 is a potential mean of spreading COVID-19. Therefore, future efforts at prevention and control must consider potential for airborne spread of COVID-19, which is a highly transmissible pathogen in closed environments with air recirculation. This means that it could be possible for an individual to contract COVID-19 from someone who was in the room before them, even though they are no longer present.

## What does this mean for employers?

Although further research on the topic is required, Public Health representatives have told us that they are recommending that individuals wear a face covering while in public/common areas including elevators, hallways, washrooms and meeting rooms, even when social distancing is possible or when they are the only person present in the area.

Remember: Wearing a mask does not replace other protective measures including physical distancing, hand washing, self-monitoring for COVID-19 symptoms and staying home when you are sick!







Sector-specific Health & Safety Guidelines, Posters and Tip Sheets

https://www.ontario.ca/page/resources-prevent-covid-19-workplace

Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS)
https://www.canada.ca/en/revenueagency/services/subsidy/emergency-wage-subsidy.html

COVID-19 Self-Assessment https://covid-19.ontario.ca/self-assessment/

When and How to Properly Wear a Mask

https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public/when-and-how-to-use-masks

How to Properly Wash Your Hands
https://www.who.int/gpsc/clean hands protection/en/

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