

# Making Decisions About Masks

## Guidance Document

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Practical Nurses of Manitoba  
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Guidance documents promote the understanding and application of current legislation, regulations, professional standards, and other documents that guide and direct members of the practical nursing profession. This guidance document applies to all College of Licensed Practical Nurses of Manitoba (CLPNM) registrants, including student practical nurses (SPNs), graduate practical nurses (GPNs), and licensed practical nurses (LPNs).

### Introduction

On May 3, 2023, Shared Health announced that the Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) requirements introduced during the COVID-19 Pandemic would be lifted effective May 10, 2023.

Those working within the publicly operated health care system will return to PPE usage according to Shared Health's [Routine Practices Protocol](#).

This change in guidance may prompt some practical nurses, including those who practise outside of the publicly operated health care system, to question whether their own PPE usage and mask policies should change.

### CLPNM Guidance

Practical nurses who are employed are expected to continue to follow the clinical practice guidelines, protocols and policies respecting PPE that have been adopted in their place of employment.

LPNs who are self-employed are encouraged to:

- Review and adopt Shared Health's [Routine Practices Protocol](#).

- Communicate their mask policy to clients, staff and others they interact with in their practice.

All practical nurses, whether employed or self-employed, must continue to apply their Standards of Practice and Conduct, as well as their Code of Ethics, when making decisions about the use of PPE. This includes:

- Applying appropriate knowledge, skill and judgment in their practice, including when making decisions about the use of PPE. (Refer to Standards 15, 17 and 22)
- Assessing risks and taking action to safeguard the health and well-being of clients, using an evidence-based framework. (Refer to Standards 23 and 26)
- Respecting each client's choice and autonomy, as well as the client's right to access care by
  - not refusing to provide care to a client who chooses not to wear a mask, and
  - respecting the wishes of a client who requests that the nurse wear a mask. (Refer to your Code of Ethics)

## For More Information

Visit our website at [www.clpnm.ca](http://www.clpnm.ca) for more information and resources.

Contact us with questions at  
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## References

The following documents were consulted during the development of this guidance document.

CLPNM (2014). [Code of Ethics](#).

CLPNM (2021). [Standards of Practice and Conduct](#).

College of Physicians and Surgeons of Manitoba (2023). [Position on Mask-Wearing](#).

Shared Health (2023). [Memo: A Return to Routine Practices and Additional Precautions](#).

Shared Health (2020). [Routine Practices Protocol](#).

## About the CLPNM

The CLPNM is the governing body for the licensed practical nursing profession in Manitoba. Mandated to govern its members in a manner that serves and protects the public interest, the CLPNM establishes practice requirements for the provision of safe and effective nursing care.