

**CCIR# 107.0****CONTINUING CARE  
INFORMATION RELEASE**

**TO:** Home Care Agencies

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**FROM:** Kim Silver, Director, Home and Community Care, DHW

**DATE:** December 23, 2020

**RE:** **Eye Protection Required for Home Care Visits in Halifax, Hants, Annapolis and Kings Counties; Client Masking Recommended Province-wide**

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**Universal Pandemic Precaution (UPP) required: Halifax, Hants, Annapolis and Kings Counties**

Enhanced pandemic precautions for personal protective equipment (PPE) that includes the addition of eye protection is now effective for home nursing and home support visits in the **Halifax, Hants, Annapolis and Kings Counties**.

The enhanced infection prevention and control measures for front line home care workers are now in effect:

- All front-line home nursing and home support providers who visit clients will be provided face shields as part of the required PPE. This PPE enhancement will be included as a universal pandemic precaution (UPP). Use of this PPE is now mandatory in the areas of the province noted above.
- Home care operators in Halifax and Hants Counties were recently supplied with visors proactively.
- A guidance document to support the addition of eye protection is attached and available on the DHW Continuing Care Hub.
- We are closely monitoring the epidemiology and current risk environment and will consider expanding this to other areas of the province if required.

Additional visor supply will be distributed from the provincial stockpile and can be requested through the existing PPE process.

**Province-wide: Client Masking Strongly Recommended**

In addition, we strongly recommend that all home care clients throughout the province wear a non-surgical mask while receiving home care services. Clients may choose to wear their own mask, or if they don't have a suitable mask, it can be provided by the agency.

To request additional visors (in Halifax, Hants, Annapolis and Kings Counties) or masks (province-wide) place your request through HANS using the existing processes. If you have health-related questions, please contact your Occupational Health and Safety supports (NSHA Occ. Health) at 1-833-944-2413. Please send any other questions to [Covid19cc@novascotia.ca](mailto:Covid19cc@novascotia.ca) and they will be directed to the appropriate person for response.

Finally, a revised Home and Community Outbreak Toolkit is attached.