

**DEPARTMENT OF FAMILIES CIRCULAR**

**Date:** March 15, 2022

**CIRCULAR NUMBER:** COVID-19 2022-11

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**To:** Service providers in the following sectors:  
Children's disABILITY Services  
Community Living disABILITY Services  
Child and Family Services Authorities, agencies and group care  
Family Violence Prevention Program  
Homelessness  
Social Housing

**Subject:** March 15, 2022 changes to public health measures

**Replaces:** 2021-11 - Optional N95 mask use when providing direct care to individuals who are suspected or confirmed COVID-19 cases; 2021-21 - Personal protective equipment (PPE) requirements for CFS community care providers; 2021-22 - personal protective equipment (PPE) requirements for CLDS service providers

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**Type:**  Policy  
 Procedure

**Effective Date:** Immediately

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After two years of restrictions and public health orders, public health officials advise we are now in a position to cautiously resume normal practices and activities.

Effective March 15, 2022, masks will no longer be required in indoor public places. As mask requirements are removed, it is important to note that anyone can continue to choose to wear masks, based on their individual risk and personal preference.

Service providers may choose to implement their own policies and requirements related to masking and other personal protective equipment (PPE). In developing these policies, it is important to [assess risk](#). The attached document provides public health recommendations for PPE by sector.

Service providers can continue to order PPE during this time of transition. The supply will be assessed in the coming weeks.

Work to monitor the situation is ongoing, and service providers need to be prepared for future scenarios that may require additional preventive measures.

We encourage you to ensure that your staff continue to follow preventive measures as much as possible.

- Be sure to stay home if sick.
- Perform hand hygiene frequently.
- Assess risk and know if eligible for treatment.
- Get vaccinated and get boosted when possible.

Our ongoing priority is to support service providers and the communities we serve as we turn our focus to longer term response planning and a post-pandemic future.

Thank you for your continued commitment to creating safe and welcoming environments for all.

**Attachment: Families PPE Table by Sector**