



September 28, 2023.

Over the last several weeks, there has been a significant increase in the number of COVID cases and other acute respiratory infections (influenza, RSV, rhinovirus) in the KFL&A region; these illnesses are already causing challenges for the healthcare system. The KFL&A Public Health Dashboard shows an increase in test positivity, outbreaks, and hospitalizations across the region. This has a direct impact on both our supported individuals and our staff. Our response to this is important as we provide a safe environment for everyone at Ongwanada.

Effective Friday, September 29, 2023, Ongwanada will implement mandatory masking for all staff members. Medical grade masks must be worn when in close proximity (less than 2 meters) to a supported individual or a staff member. When physical distancing can be maintained, masks can be removed. This proactive approach should reduce the exposure of individuals supported and staff to these various respiratory viruses. Many of our supported individuals are at high risk for experiencing prolonged illnesses along with possible hospitalization.

Masking will help staff by reducing high-risk exposure, workplace isolation, and workplace acquired illness. In addition to masking, everyone is reminded to continue to perform frequent handwashing (follow the 4 Essential Moments of Hand Hygiene) and practice good respiratory etiquette. Flu Vaccine and Covid vaccine boosters are also encouraged for all staff.

Staff experiencing respiratory symptoms should not come to work and must connect with their area supervisor/after-hour supervisor. Staff may return to work 24 hours after symptoms are resolving.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Alastair Lamb'.

Alastair Lamb M.Sc. MPA
CEO