



TO: SCO Membership
FROM: Arlene Miller, SCO Vice President / NIRO Representative
DATE: March 25, 2021
RE: SHA Guidelines and Recommendations

In light of the increasing presence of COVID-19 Variants of Concern (VoC), especially in the Regina area, the SHA has issued a bulletin regarding added PPE measures.

VoCs mode of transmission (aerosol droplets and on shared surfaces) and the symptoms are the same as the original strain of the COVID-19 virus. However, evidence indicates that these variants of concern are 70 percent more transmissible, meaning it spreads more easily. Older residents and those with underlying health conditions are at greatest risk of severe illness and death. The Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA) is encouraging all Saskatchewan residents to be vigilant, get tested if they have symptoms, and get immunized when eligible, especially now as these VoCs continue to appear in areas across our province.

As members of a regulated health profession, we must continue to remain vigilant in our use of PPE, disinfection protocols, and maintaining social distancing as much as possible. It is recommended to have patients wear medical-grade masks as opposed to cloth masks and to have staff wear medical-grade masks and eye protection when within 6 feet of an 'unmasked' patient, although there should rarely be a circumstance where a patient is not wearing a mask (possibly a medical exemption).

We encourage all members to consistently refer to the SHA website for any updates to safety guidelines or recommendations.

Please see the links below:

[COVID-19 Safety Bulletin - March 19, 2021](#)

[COVID-19 Safety Bulletin - January 22, 2021](#)

[PPE Infection Prevention Control](#)

[Saskatchewan.ca - Public Health Orders](#)
