Universal use of personal protective equipment (PPE) in long-term care facilities

During the COVID-19 pandemic, all staff must wear a mask* and eye protection (face shield or goggles) while in the facility.

Why?
People can have the virus that causes COVID-19 and spread it without showing any symptoms. Wearing PPE reduces the release of respiratory secretions from talking, sneezing, and coughing. It also protects the eyes, nose, and mouth from exposure to splashes or sprays of infectious materials from others.

* Mask refers to medical grade facemask or respirator. Respirators with an exhalation valve are not recommended, as they allow unfiltered exhaled breath to escape

Best Practice Tip #1
Mask and eye protection should be worn properly at all times. Eye protection should cover the eyes. Masks should cover the nose and mouth.

Best Practice Tip #2
Avoid touching your mask and eye protection. If you need to readjust or remove PPE, use hand hygiene before and after.

Best Practice Tip #3
When mask and eye protection cannot be worn (e.g., during meals), staff should observe strict physical distancing of six (6) feet or more and clean/disinfect the area before leaving.

Remember:
- Universal use of PPE does not replace the need to monitor for illness. You should not come to work ill or if you have recently tested positive for COVID-19. Discuss return to work policies with your supervisor.
- Resusable eye protection must be properly cleaned, decontaminated, and maintained after and between uses. Never share PPE with other staff.