

MEMO

Date: March 23, 2020 UPDATED
To: Health System Leaders
From: **Dr. Brent Roussin**
Chief Provincial Public Health Officer
Lanette Siragusa, Provincial Lead
Health System Integration & Quality,
Chief Nursing Officer, Shared Health
Re: **COVID-19 – Acute Care Facility Visitor Restrictions**

Given the evolving COVID-19 situation, we are now implementing strict precautions to protect our patients.

Public health officials and health system leaders are implementing the following strict measures:

For **all acute care facilities in Manitoba**, visitor access is being immediately suspended. Visitor restrictions will take effect today (March 19) at 3:00pm.

Exceptions for compassionate reasons or end of life will continue to be made on a case-by-case basis but will adhere to vigilant screening.

At the discretion of individual facility managers, one (1) visitor may be permitted to the following areas following screening:

- Obstetrics
- NICU
- PICU
- Emergency Departments
- CancerCare Manitoba will allow one person to accompany cancer patients.

For pediatric patients, one (1) parent/guardian may visit at a time.

Updated signage is available in both French and English for facilities to print and post indicating these temporary measures to all visitors. Signs are available by referring to:
<https://sharedhealthmb.ca/files/visitor-restrictions-large.pdf>.

Individual unit signage is also available.

The following individuals should **NOT** visit **any health care facilities**. Those who have:

- Returned from travel, including travel within Canada, in the last 14 days, OR

- Had *exposure to a confirmed COVID-19 case within 14 days prior to onset of illness, (Note: *Exposure may include scenarios or settings like: large events with confirmed case(s) of COVID-19.)
- Had close contact with someone being tested for COVID-19 at this time,
- Been instructed to self-isolate or self-monitor for 14 days,
- Cold or flu-like symptoms (cough, fever, runny nose, sore throat, weakness or headache),

Visitors will always be treated with compassion and understanding.

Visitor restrictions are in effect until further notice. Remember to wash your hands often, and stay informed of updates and all recommended precautions at <https://sharedhealthmb.ca/covid19/providers/>.