

## MEMO

**Date:** March 12, 2020

**To:** Agencies

**From:** Interlake Eastern, Regional Health Authority  
Northern, Regional Health Authority  
Prairie Mountain Health, Regional Health Authority  
Southern Health – Santé Sud, Regional Health Authority  
Winnipeg Regional Health Authority  
Shared Health

**cc:** PHLRS

**Re:** **COVID-19 Requirements for Utilization of Agency Staff and PPE Reminder**

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Public health officials continue to monitor, gather information, assess risk and recommend evidence-based approaches for health care providers and precautions for returning travelers related to the developing COVID-19 situation.

**Specific advice for individuals planning international travel and those returning from affected countries is being regularly updated.** Recommendations are based on current evidence and are being continuously reviewed and reassessed.

The Regional Health Authorities and Shared Health would like to remind all Agencies of the requirement to take every precaution to decrease the potential spread of COVID-19. This includes a requirement **that agency-employed health care providers who are required to either self-isolate or self-monitor due to recent travel, are not assigned to provide service in any contracted program or at any contracted site or facility.**

For health care providers, use of enhanced droplet and contact precautions continue to be recommended for interacting with any patient who screens positive for COVID-19. This includes gown, gloves, procedure or surgical mask and face/eye protection. For aerosol-generating medical procedures (AGMPs), an N95 mask is recommended instead of a procedure or surgical mask.

Agencies are also reminded that per the Provincial Agency contract, health care providers who have been screened and assigned to provide service within a contracted program or site/facility must have access to – and use according to clinical recommendation – the appropriate personal



protective equipment (PPE). Ensuring appropriate PPE for agency staff is the responsibility of the agency.

When assigning agency staff, please contact the contracted Employer Organization should you have any questions.

For the latest information on Manitoba's planning and response to COVID-19 please refer to <https://www.gov.mb.ca/health/coronavirus/index.html>.

For more information on Active Travel Advisories, please refer to <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/latest-travel-health-advice.html>.