

## MEMO

**Date:** March 25, 2020 **Updated**  
**To:** All Health Care Providers, Physicians and Staff  
**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 – Guidelines for Screening of Manitoba Health Care Workers (Physicians and Staff)**

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In response to the evolving COVID-19 situation, all Manitobans, including health care providers, have been strongly advised to cancel or postpone any non-essential travel, including travel within Canada.

Public Health Officials have directed **all returning travelers**, including those returning from travel within Canada, to self-isolate and self-monitor for symptoms for 14 days following their return to Manitoba.

Effective March 23, 2020, the following guidelines for screening Manitoba health care workers (including staff and physicians) are in place.

**Please Note:** *Those health care workers who returned from travel, including travel within Canada, prior to March 23, 2020 are directed to follow the public health advice that was in place at the time of their return.*

### Symptomatic Physicians

- All symptomatic physicians returning from travel, including travel within Canada, must immediately self-identify to their employer's Occupational Health Services or designate. For organizations that do not have Occupational Health Services, these services will be available centrally for employees by calling toll-free 1-888-203-4066.

### Asymptomatic Physicians

- All asymptomatic physicians who are returning from travel, including travel within Canada, are directed to contact their site/sector medical director, as applicable, or their organization's Chief Medical Officer who will determine if they are required to attend the workplace or are deemed "operationally required" to their respective service area.

For exemptions deemed necessary, medical leadership must consult with Dr. Allen Kraut, Medical Director, Occupational and Environmental Safety & Health, Winnipeg Regional Health Authority, in order for a risk assessment to be conducted related to the

physician's travel exposure. Further information regarding this process will be provided by the respect Chief Medical Officer of each regional health authority/service delivery organization.

#### Asymptomatic care workers (non-physician)

- All healthcare workers who are asymptomatic are directed to contact their manager.

#### Exceptions to self-isolation

- The return to the workplace of any staff member who has travelled outside Manitoba within the last 14 days is not permitted without the approval of Occupational Health Services or designate following a detailed risk assessment.
- Under exceptional circumstances, when the staff person has unique skills that cannot be provided by any other providers which may create a patient safety risk, the manager can request an 'exception' to self-isolation. "Exception" requests to return staff to the workplace are limited to work situations where no alternative other than the return of the staff member exists to ensure for necessary, specialized and/ or time-sensitive work. All other available staffing processes must be considered prior to an exception request being initiated.
- If a manager believes that there is need for an "exception request", the manager must receive **approval from their Director. If the Director supports the request for an exception, the** manager must complete the appropriate paperwork (exception request form) have the director sign the form and forward by fax/scan and email [Occupational Health Services or designate](#).
- The employee may not return to the workplace until Occupational Health Services has completed their detailed risk assessment and clears the staff member to return to work. Managers are reminded that all contact with staff returning from travel must be conducted via telephone or video-conference until Occupational Health Services has cleared the employee for work.
- Should the employee be deemed "operationally required" AND approved to work **following the staff health risk assessment** AND is asymptomatic, staff may return to work but must avoid contact with high risk patients. The employee will be required to self-monitor for symptoms, including monitoring their temperature twice a day and to wear a procedure/surgical mask for the duration of their shift and self-monitoring period.
  - When masks are removed for breaks/eating staff should remain 6 feet from other people, follow social distancing guidelines and ensure hand hygiene is practiced.
  - Masks should be changed when they become soiled or wet. When changing masks staff should remain 6 feet from other people follow social distancing guidelines and ensure hand hygiene is practiced.

- Infection Prevention & Control direction related to masks includes avoiding touching the face during patient care and ensuring nose, mouth, and chin are covered when wearing. Change masks if they become wet or soiled (from the wearer's breathing or due to an external splash), if breathing becomes difficult, or following interaction with a patient on Additional Precautions. For full directions, refer to: <https://sharedhealthmb.ca/files/routine-practices-protocol.pdf>
- Health care workers and physicians must immediately remove themselves from work if any symptoms develop, self-isolate and notify Occupational Health Services. When not at work, they should self-isolate at home for the full 14 day period.
- Managers are reminded that all contact with staff returning from travel must be conducted via telephone or video-conference until those staff have been cleared for work by OESH.

Exceptions are in place to allow for health care workers and physicians who travel within another country and travel regularly within Canada to work (including remote fly-in communities). These health care workers are subject to the same guidelines for symptomatic or asymptomatic status as above.

This recommendation does not include:

- the commercial transportation of goods and services;
- workers who live in a neighbouring jurisdiction and travel to Manitoba for work;
- health care workers who travel to work from outside the province;
- normal personal travel in border communities, including visits to a cottage.

**Occupational Health Services and Designates**

Note: Shared Health Diagnostic Services contact is based on site.

Winnipeg Health Region

Provincial Occupational Health COVID-19 Screening (WRHA OESH)

Phone: 204-926-1042 or toll free at 1-888-203-4066

Fax: 204-947-9970

Hours: 7 days a week from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm

Applies to:

WRHA Community Health Services	Winnipeg Community Agencies and WRHA Primary Care Sites <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aboriginal Health and Wellness Centre</li> <li>• Centre de santé Saint-Boniface</li> <li>• Hope Centre Health Care Inc</li> <li>• Klinik Community Health Centre</li> <li>• Main Street Project, Inc.</li> <li>• MFL Occupational Health Centre</li> <li>• Mount Carmel Clinic</li> <li>• Nine Circles CHC</li> <li>• NorWest Co-op Community Health Centre</li> <li>• Rehabilitation Centre for Children</li> <li>• Women's Health Clinic</li> <li>• Sexuality Education Resource Centre</li> <li>• Youville Clinic (2 sites)</li> </ul>
WRHA Corporate	
Concordia Hospital and Concordia Place	
Deer Lodge Centre	
Grace Hospital	
Seven Oaks Hospital	
Victoria Hospital	
Shared Health – Health Sciences Centre	
Shared Health – Corporate	
Shared Health – Transformation Management Office	
WRHA Long Term Care Program Sites	
Department of Families – Social Services	

St. Boniface Hospital

SBH Occupational Health

Phone: 204-237-2941 or 204-237-2441

Fax: (204) 237-2041

Email: [emarshall@sbgh.mb.ca](mailto:emarshall@sbgh.mb.ca) or [aluna@sbgh.mb.ca](mailto:aluna@sbgh.mb.ca)

Hours of operation: Monday to Friday 0745-1600

After Hours/Weekends: Provincial Occupational Health COVID-19 Screening at 1-888-203-4066

Fax: 204-947-9970

Misericordia Health Centre

MHC Occupational Health

Phone: (204) 788-8011

Fax: (204) 774-2517

Hours of operation: Monday to Friday days

After Hours/Weekends: Provincial Occupational Health COVID-19 Screening at 1-888-203-4066

Fax: 204-947-9970



### St. Amant Centre

St. Amant Occupational Health  
Phone: (204) 256-4301 ext. 2409  
Fax: (204) 258-7067

After Hours/Weekends: Provincial Occupational Health COVID-19 Screening at 1-888-203-4066  
Fax: 204-947-9970

### Prairie Mountain Health

PMH Occupational Health  
Phone: 204-578-2100 or 204-578-2101  
Email: [pmhcoronavirus19@pmh-mb.ca](mailto:pmhcoronavirus19@pmh-mb.ca)  
Hours: Monday to Friday – days

After Hours/Weekends: Provincial Occupational Health COVID-19 Screening at 1-888-203-4066  
Fax: 204-947-9970

### Interlake Eastern

IERHA Occupational Health  
Phone: 1-844-940-1993  
Email: [COVID-19OCCHEALTH@IERHA.CA](mailto:COVID-19OCCHEALTH@IERHA.CA)  
Hours: 7 days a week from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm

### Southern Health/Sante Sud

*Sites:* Infection Prevention & Control Practitioner during regular business hours.  
*Community and administrative program staff:* Regional Infection Control Coordinators, Ginette Lafreniere at 204-326-6411 ext 2186 or Shelly Rempel at 204-326-6411 ext 2190 during regular business hours.

After Hours/Weekends: Provincial Occupational Health COVID-19 Screening at 1-888-203-4066  
Fax: 204-947-9970

### Northern Health

Northern Health Region Occupational Health  
The Pas: 204-623-9238 0800-1615 [kpoulin@nrha.ca](mailto:kpoulin@nrha.ca)  
Flin Flon: 204-687-9617 0730-1220 [eskwarchuk@nrha.ca](mailto:eskwarchuk@nrha.ca)  
Thompson: 204-778-1543 0745-1600 [jregier2@nrha.ca](mailto:jregier2@nrha.ca)

After Hours/Weekends: Provincial Occupational Health COVID-19 Screening at 1-888-203-4066  
Fax: 204-947-9970

### Primary Care Providers in Community

Provincial Occupational Health COVID-19 Screening (WRHA OESH)  
Phone: 204-926-1042 or toll free at 1-888-203-4066  
Fax: 204-947-9970  
Hours: 7 days a week from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm