

MEMO

Date: April 4, 2020
To: All facility-based health-care workers
From: **Dr. Brent Roussin**
Chief Provincial Public Health Officer
Lanette Siragusa, Provincial Lead
Health System Integration & Quality,
Chief Nursing Officer, Shared Health
Re: **Health Care Worker Return to Work – Low-Risk COVID-19 Exposure**

On April 1, 2020, Manitoba's COVID-19 Incident Command approved the implementation of universal personal protective equipment (PPE) for the province's health care workers during all instances involving the provision of direct patient care.

These measures are now being implemented across the province as each site determines its own level of readiness based on PPE supply on-hand and distribution timelines for re-stock.

At facilities where universal PPE has already been implemented as approved by Infection Prevention & Control (IP&C) and Occupational and Environmental Safety and Health (OESH), those staff who have previously been sent home to self-isolate for 14 days may be recalled if the following conditions are satisfied:

- Facility must have universal PPE in place
- Facility must have staff screening in place before the start of every shift
- OESH must conduct a risk assessment on asymptomatic staff who worked in a unit where a colleague or patient has tested positive for COVID-19
- Staff must be deemed to have **not had close contact** (within 6 feet of patient's head for over 10 minutes or within 6 feet of COVID-19 positive colleague for more than 10 minutes) while not wearing PPE

Situations that fulfill all requirements above may return a staff member to the workplace provided they continue to follow universal PPE protocols, practice social distancing, adhere to IP&C protocols and self-monitor for symptoms.

Staff who develop ANY symptoms must leave work immediately, notify their manager, contact OESH and self-isolate.