

**MEMO**

**Date:** April 7, 2020

**To:** CEOs and Executive Teams of Manitoba Health Regions

**From:** **Dr. Brent Roussin**, Chief Provincial Public Health Officer  
**and**  
**Lanette Siragusa, Provincial Lead**, Health System Integration & Quality,  
Chief Nursing Officer, Shared Health

**Re:** **Request for volunteer support**

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As we increase our efforts across the health system in response to COVID-19, it is expected that the need for volunteers will continue to grow.

A strategy has been developed to support recruitment of volunteers to be deployed as appropriate throughout the system.

Wave 1 of recruitment is being supported by the WRHA volunteer office and is underway, with initial needs identified in the areas of designated testing sites, EAP and call centres. This Wave has included outreach to existing volunteer coordinators across Winnipeg acute sites, long-term care and CancerCare Manitoba. Appropriate candidates are being identified for final screening and placement.

Wave 2 of recruitment includes plans to reach out to Volunteer Manitoba and other volunteer partner organizations to request assistance. A copy of the letter to provincial organizations is attached. Also included you will find a letter addressed directly to volunteers that can be tailored to your local region for outreach within your communities.

The first attachment is an appeal to private and non-health based organizations to reach out to their volunteers within their networks to share our request. In Winnipeg, applicants will be directed to an electronic screening tool or to volunteer coordinators. To view the screening tool, please visit <https://wrha.mb.ca/volunteer-services/covid-19-volunteer-screening/>.

Wave 3 will likely begin several days after Wave 2 (the appeal to partner organizations) and is focused on a public appeal for volunteers via social media, interviews and the daily provincial media briefing.

Please review the materials and the proposed approach for adaptation to your region. If you have any questions related to how you can apply this work in your region please raise these to

your operational lead who may bring them to the COVID-19 operations table. We will work with communications leads in each of your regions to coordinate messaging and timing as appropriate and encourage you to reach out to local media in support of this provincial call for support.

Please find attached a template of the online screening questions currently in use in Winnipeg that you may use to adapt your own request as desired/ needed.