

## **Message from Dr. Brock Wright to Shared Health Staff**

Hello, this message is a bit longer than usual. Please take time to read and note the important information for all staff and accept my sincere and deep appreciation for all the work you are doing as our province prepares for and responds to the arrival of COVID-19.

### **We are meeting the challenge together**

Dr. Brent Roussin, Manitoba's Chief Public Health Officer, along with Lanette Siragusa, our Chief Integration Officer, Health Services and Chief Nursing Officer, are making sure we are coming together as an entire system to meet this challenge head-on. Together, we are ensuring a coordinated response using standardized, consistent processes, and facilitating strong partnerships across the province.

Various provincial planning tables are working round-the-clock to ensure operational plans are in place for digital network service and health service continuity.

This coordination is happening because of the tremendous support and dedication of all health system staff and partners, both on the front lines and behind the scenes. I am grateful for your dedication.

### **Each of us has a role in minimizing the spread**

Professional sports, extra-curricular activities, daycares, and schools are on pause, but our crucial work supporting the health of all Manitobans continues. We know that people are counting on us now more than ever before. Our shared goal is to continue providing calm, timely and appropriate information – and continued care – for our patients, clients, and residents.

Health-care staff have had to step up to meet unprecedented needs, and are leading by example as we navigate changes to visitor access and other measures to protect those in our care and in our workplace.

System-wide, we are working together to support each other and meet social distancing requirements in our workplaces. We are implementing workplace accommodation and family status accommodation to address health and family challenges, and expanding our work-from-home guidelines to ensure continuity of essential services such as payroll and scheduling.

Each of us has a unique role in the system: some are required on site to deliver patient care and others are more able to work remotely.

In the next few days, your manager will discuss options with you if your role has been identified as one that can be delivered remotely.

For those continuing to work on site delivering patient care or services, we will support you through whatever means possible. We are indebted for your courage, your commitment to keeping crucial patient care activities going, and for the personal sacrifices that you may make. I thank you ... and the people of Manitoba thank you.

Over the coming weeks, I am asking for each of us to be:

**Vigilant** – Ask questions of your managers and of leadership. Understand that there are no foolish questions. It's key to our combined response that you understand what is happening and what is required of you.

**Engaged** – You have important observations and good ideas. I encourage you to speak up and share them. It's up to all of us to continue to provide safe, quality care through this pandemic.

**Supportive** – It's important for us to support each other in all ways. "Check in" with your colleagues; it's okay to share how you are feeling. Knowing that others are working through the same emotions and questions reminds us of our shared humanity, and our shared strengths. Have open and honest check-ins with yourself and the people you trust about how you're doing. Our individual strengths are multiplied when we work together.

### **Use the correct information and resources**

You are being faced with a significant amount of information about COVID-19 and how we are responding, including information about business continuity plans, social distancing, working remotely, self-care, and suggestions and direction about postponing out-of-province travel.

At the websites below, you'll find the most up-to-date information in this rapidly changing environment. Please use this information to ensure your work is aligned with the rest of your colleagues throughout the province.

***The following links are trusted, vetted, and current:***

Information for Health Care Providers, Physicians & Staff

<https://sharedhealthmb.ca/covid19/providers/>

Information for the Public

[www.manitoba.ca/covid19](http://www.manitoba.ca/covid19)

Shared Health Social Media

<https://twitter.com/SharedHealthMB>

<https://www.facebook.com/sharedhealthmanitoba/>

<https://www.instagram.com/sharedhealthmb/>

We urge you to check these sources daily as your primary method for receiving information. If the information you need is not available, email [info@sharehealthmb.ca](mailto:info@sharehealthmb.ca).

Life is going to change dramatically for all of us over the next while. It's going to have an effect on the time we have with our families and friends, and will undoubtedly test our personal well-being. I believe moments like this are defining, and will bring out the best in us as health-care workers.

Manitobans are counting on us. We will not let them, or each other, down.

Thank you again for all you are doing to keep yourself, your loved ones, and our community safe.