Health care workers across Manitoba continue to meet the challenges of COVID-19 each and every day.

We both receive emails daily from members of the public who share their stories and ask us to pass along their thanks to those working on the front lines. On behalf of all Manitobans, we thank you for your resilience, your flexibility and your ongoing dedication to supporting our province’s health care needs during this uncertain time.

This pandemic has required significant changes to be made in each of our lives in a very short period of time. You are experiencing those changes both in your personal lives and in your work environment and you continue to show up, ready to help, in the ever changing demands of COVID-19.

It is important to remember that we are not helpless in our efforts and that none of us are facing this pandemic alone. We are in this together and we know you are taking every possible step to ensure you, your colleagues, patients, clients and residents are safe and protected. We know that in addition to your work to respond to COVID-19 that you also continue to provide vital non-COVID-19 related care each and every day.

You are on the front-lines in the fight against COVID-19 and you are our best ambassadors to share information with your colleagues, friends, family members and the public.

Each of us needs to do everything in our power to prevent the spread of this virus. This includes staying home when you are ill, keeping your distance from others, limiting excursions to essential outings, washing hands regularly and well and wiping down commonly used surfaces. These are simple tasks but they have a significant impact on reducing risk of exposure to this virus.

As we approach a weekend that is normally characterized by family gatherings, religious observance and time with friends, we encourage you to share these simple but effective tips with your family, friends and loved ones. Now is not the time to let our guard down.

Many of you will be working this weekend, as will we, but we wish you rest when you are able, joyous moments with family, and meaningful (virtual) connections with those who give you the support, appreciation and love that each of you deserve.