MEMO

Date:        April 18, 2020

To:          All Health Care Workers

From:        Dr. Brent Roussin
             Chief Provincial Public Health Officer

Cc:          Lanette Siragusa, Provincial Lead
             Health System Integration & Quality,
             Chief Nursing Officer, Shared Health

Re:          COVID-19 – Authority of OESH & IP&C Leads in Determination of
             staff exemptions and PPE requirements

Manitoba’s COVID-19 Incident Command has designated Occupational and Environmental Safety and Health (OESH) as the final authority on the determination of staff and/or physician exemptions from work.

Staff and/or physicians who have concerns about an underlying medical condition, medication or immune compromised status affecting their ability to report to the workplace during the COVID-19 pandemic should contact OESH. Provincial OESH contact information is available here.

Dr. Allen Kraut, OESH Lead for Manitoba’s COVID-19 Response, and his team, will review concerns, staff/physician records and workplace exposure before making a decision about the continued appropriateness of each individual reporting to their place of work. Doctor/Nurse Practitioner notes placing restrictions on staff or physician activities in the workplace do not supersede these decisions and will not be accepted.

Manitoba’s COVID-19 Incident Command has similarly designated Dr. John Embil as Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Lead for Manitoba’s COVID-19 Response. Together with clinical leadership and guided by the experience of other jurisdictions, Dr. Kraut and Dr. Embil are informing Manitoba’s Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) requirements.

These guidelines will be updated as information evolves and are the ultimate source of guidance for PPE required in the workplace. Doctor/Nurse Practitioner notes prescribing specific PPE do not supersede these guidelines and will not be accepted.