

COVID-19

**Provincial Infection Prevention & Control Advice on Use of
Personal Protective Equipment, Scrubs, Uniforms and
Footwear**

There is no change to existing policies for Hospital issued surgical scrubs.

As previously communicated, all patients who screen positive should immediately be instructed to wear a procedure/surgical mask and be placed in a designated separate waiting area/space (maintain 2 metre/6 feet separation). Any accompanying people/escorts, (even if asymptomatic), should also immediately be instructed to wear a procedure/surgical mask.

Do not allow patient to cohort with other patients and limit staff to those who are not essential.

During clinical assessment, physicians and staff must use Enhanced Droplet/Contact precautions (also referred to as Droplet/Contact precautions with airborne precautions for aerosol-generating medical procedures) and wear required personal protective equipment (PPE) which includes gowns, gloves, procedure/surgical mask and eye protection/face shield. **Hospital-issued surgical scrubs are NOT required.**

Physicians and staff who are required to wear hospital-issued surgical scrubs in designated areas such as operating rooms or obstetrics are reminded to NOT wear scrubs into – or out of – the facility as per facility policy.

For all other staff, it is recommended best practice to bring your personal work uniform with you and change when you arrive at work. Please bring a change of clothes and change before going home and maintain a dedicated pair of shoes for work. Follow normal practice when laundering your uniform. Laundry detergent and use of the warmest washing machine temperatures recommended on your clothing label are suggested.

Staff are reminded that personal protective equipment is to be provided by the region/site/facility and used as clinically indicated.

Manitoba's COVID-19 response includes a coordinated and centrally managed supply of PPE for all health care workers. Supplies are being stored in centrally located warehouses to ensure stock and resupply are appropriately monitored. Regular shipments are filling immediate needs at sites around the province. Should need increase, supply distribution will also increase.

Note: N95 respirators are only recommended for aerosol-generating medical procedures in **Orange** and **Red** Zones: <https://sharedhealthmb.ca/files/aerosol-generating-medical-procedures-AGMPs.pdf>.

For **Green Zone** patients, N95 respirators are not required for AGMPs, unless:

- There is clinical concern of infection with an airborne pathogen such as *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*

Consultation with Workplace Safety and Health (WSH) has confirmed that our ongoing compliance with the Public Health Agency of Canada guidelines for contact and droplet precautions is supported. In issuing this decision, WSH consulted with local and national experts in infectious disease as well as experts on coronavirus research and coronavirus infection control.