MEMO

Date: April 16, 2020
To: All Health-care Workers
From: Dr. Brent Roussin
Chief Provincial Public Health Officer
Lanette Siragusa, Provincial Lead
Health System Integration & Quality,
Chief Nursing Officer, Shared Health

Re: COVID-19 – Updated Screening for Staff

Staff, physicians and contracted service providers across all areas of Manitoba’s health system, including those working in acute and long-term care facilities and those working in emergency response services, including for municipal service providers, will now be screened prior to the beginning of shifts.

The change, which is being made upon the recommendation of public health officials, will be implemented at sites beginning April 1, 2020.

Staff will have their temperature taken and be required to answer questions about any symptoms they may have.

The following principles will be used:

- Staff should be screened prior to the start of their shift. Staff required to come and go during the course of a day may be re-screened upon re-entry.

- It is absolutely essential that staff maintain 6 feet of separation in the screening lineup. Line-ups should be established in locations where crowding can be avoided. Screening should also not be conducted in small confined spaces such as a trailer. A large well ventilated room or outdoor space should be used.

- Infection Prevention and Control (IP&C) have confirmed that close range temperature monitoring requires the screener to wear personal protective equipment (PPE). Close temperature monitoring must be done with caution and must not involve touching of the person being screened.

Staff are reminded of the importance of proper hand hygiene and following routine practices and all other IP&C protocols. COVID-19 can be spread through close contact (within two metres or
six feet) with an infected person who is coughing or sneezing. You can also get COVID-19 by touching objects contaminated with the virus and then touching your mouth, eyes or nose.

**Staff must stay home when sick, even if symptoms are mild. We all have a duty to protect our patients, our colleagues and our community.**

In recognition of the onset of allergy season, screening of symptoms has been updated. Staff screening materials will be updated to reflect these changes. Questions will be asked about symptoms including fever or chills, new cough or increase in the amount of coughing, sore throat, shortness of breath, headache or unusual headache, or sore muscles not related to overexertion or exercise.

If you experience these symptoms, please go to be tested at a testing site near you. Practice social distancing and self-isolate immediately. Contact your manager and local Occupational Health department to notify them that you are on isolation.

A list of numbers for OH is available here: [https://sharedhealthmb.ca/files/occupational-health-contact-information.pdf](https://sharedhealthmb.ca/files/occupational-health-contact-information.pdf)