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 & testing criteria

Public health officials have expanded the COVID-19 testing criteria to include symptomatic individuals who live with a health care worker, first responder, or worker in a congregate setting such as a correctional facility, shelter, long-term care or residential facility AND symptomatic workers and volunteers who work at workplaces identified as “essential services” (health care workers and first responders are now included within this category).

Note: “essential services” are categorized to include workplaces permitted to remain open during the public health ordered closure of non-essential businesses.

These new testing protocols are in addition to the existing testing criteria from April 9, March 26, 2020 and March 23, 2020, which remain in place.

COVID-19 testing criteria now includes the following groups:

- Symptomatic (respiratory symptoms of any severity) workers and volunteers in *essential services, including health-care workers and first responders.
  *Essential services are those workplaces permitted to remained open during the shutdown of non-essential workplaces mandated by Public Health Orders;
- Symptomatic (respiratory symptoms of any severity) individuals living with a health-care worker, first responder, or worker in a congregate setting such as a correctional facility, shelter, long-term care or residential facility;
- Symptomatic individuals (respiratory symptoms of any severity) who live or work in a remote or isolated community or congregate setting, such as a correctional facility, shelter, long-term care or residential facility, or a remote work camp; and
• Patients with respiratory (cold/flu) symptoms and who have:
  • Had *exposure to a confirmed case of COVID-19 (*Exposure includes attendance at large group settings where someone has been confirmed to have COVID-19.); AND/OR
  • Travelled outside Manitoba, including travel within Canada, in the 14 days before onset of illness; AND/OR
  • Had lab exposure working with COVID-19 specimens.

Criteria for testing will continue to change as Manitoba’s response to COVID-19 evolves. We will make every effort to continue to communicate changes.

Manitobans are directed to contact Health Links - Info Santé at 204-788-8200 or toll-free at 1-888-315-9257 to determine if testing for COVID-19 should be considered.