

MEMO

Date: March 15, 2020
To: All Health Care Providers, Physicians and Staff
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 – Guidelines for Screening of Manitoba Health Care Workers (Physicians and Staff)**

In response to the evolving COVID-19 situation, all Manitobans, including health care providers, have been strongly advised to cancel or postpone any non-essential international travel.

Earlier today, Public Health Officials further directed **all international travelers** to self-isolate and self-monitor for symptoms for 14 days following their return to Canada and indicated that work was underway to develop guidelines for the appropriate screening of health care workers returning to Canada following international travel.

Effective March 15, 2020, the following guidelines for screening Manitoba health care workers (including staff and physicians) are in place.

Please Note: *Those health care workers who returned from international travel prior to March 15, 2020 are directed to follow the public health advice that was in place at the time of their return.*

Symptomatic Physicians and Staff

- All symptomatic physicians and staff returning from international travel must immediately self-identify to their employer's Occupational Health Services or designate. For organization's that do not have Occupational Health Services, these services will be available centrally for employees by calling toll-free 1-888-203-4066.

Asymptomatic Physicians

- All asymptomatic physicians who are returning from international travel are directed to contact their site/sector medical director, as applicable, or their organization's Chief Medical Officer who will determine if they are required to attend the workplace or are deemed "essential" to their respective service area.

- For exemptions deemed necessary, medical leadership must consult with Dr. Allen Kraut, Medical Director, Occupational and Environmental Safety & Health, Winnipeg Regional Health Authority, in order for a risk assessment to be conducted related to the physician's travel exposure. Further information regarding this process will be provided by the respect Chief Medical Officer of each regional health authority/service delivery organization.

Asymptomatic health care workers (non-physician)

- All other health care workers who are asymptomatic are directed to contact their manager.

Essential health care workers (including staff and physicians)

- For staff deemed “**essential**” for service (“essential” is to be determined by the manager, considering service area needs), managers should consult with occupational health services to perform a risk assessment, taking into account the type of work, exposure to high risk clients, and the relevant travel exposure to determine if an exemption can be made. A fax summarizing this information should then be sent to Occupational and Environmental Safety and Health (OESH) at (204) 947-9970.
- If deemed essential, health care workers and physicians must self-monitor for symptoms, including monitoring their temperature twice a day and wearing a mask for the duration of their shift and self-monitoring period.
- Health care workers and physicians must immediately remove themselves from work if any symptoms develop, self-isolate and notify OESH. When not at work, they should self-isolate at home for the full 14 day period.
- Exceptions are in place to allow for health care workers and physicians who travel within another country and travel regularly within Canada to work (including remote fly-in communities). These health care workers are subject to the same guidelines for symptomatic or asymptomatic status as above.

*** "Essential" may mean staff must be on-site to perform their jobs. This may include positions that directly deliver front-line clinical services and those positions that provide a support function related to the provision of clinical services (food services, laundry, housekeeping, facility management, health information, pharmacy, etc.).**

NOTE: It is the responsibility of each manager to determine the staffing level needs required for their respective areas to function safely.