

Date: March 6, 2020

To: REGULATORY BODIES and EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

From: Dr. Brent Roussin, Chief Provincial Public Health Officer, Manitoba Health,
Seniors & Active Living
Lanette Siragusa, Provincial Lead, Health System Integration & Quality, Chief
Nursing Officer, Shared Health

Re: **COVID-19 Update and Request for Assistance**

As of March 5, 2020, 97 tests for COVID-19 have been completed in Manitoba. No laboratory-confirmed cases have been identified in the province and the overall risk to Canadians remains low.

Public health officials continue to monitor, gather information, assess risk and recommend evidence-based approaches for health care providers and precautions for returning travelers. Manitoba's response aligns with that recommended by the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) and being implemented by most Canadian provinces.

Along with the national guidance, our team approach includes involving the provincial clinical leads in the areas of critical care, emergency, internal medicine, and anesthesia to continuously review recommendations and reassess based on the most up to date evidence. As well, daily consultation continues with Infection Prevention and Control and with Occupational and Environmental Staff Health.

For health care providers, use of enhanced droplet and contact precautions continue to be recommended in cases of any patient who screens positive for COVID-19. This includes gown, gloves, procedure or surgical mask and face/eye protection. For aerosol-generating medical procedures (AGMPs), an N95 mask is recommended instead of a procedure or surgical mask. At this time, broader use of N95 masks is not recommended or required however health care providers are encouraged to review proper donning and doffing procedures for personal protective equipment. Supply Chain is actively engaged in Manitoba's COVID-19 Incident Management and response and we are monitoring stock and supplies.



We are committed to communicating any changes in process, protocol or recommended approach directly to staff.

Information is being regularly updated and posted online at <https://www.gov.mb.ca/health/coronavirus/index.html> and <https://sharedhealthmb.ca/health-providers/coronavirus-resources/>.

We would appreciate any support that your organization might be able to offer in ensuring that messages are reaching individual providers and that clinics and medical offices are being encouraged to print and post the materials available to them by referring regularly to <https://sharedhealthmb.ca/health-providers/coronavirus-resources/>.

Thank you for your support.