

March 31, 2020

To: Health Profession Regulators

RE: Chief Provincial Public Health Officer orders the closure of non-critical businesses

As you are aware, the Manitoba Government declared a province-wide state of emergency under The Emergency Measures Act on March 20, 2020, to protect the health and safety of all Manitobans and reduce the spread of Covid-19. The declaration enables the government to act quickly on a broad range of supportive measures to stop the spread of Covid-19. This includes issuing orders under The Public Health Act. Public health orders include actions required to reduce the threat to the public health of all Manitobans and are issued by the Chief Provincial Public Health Officer.

On March 30, 2020, I ordered the closure of non-critical businesses. This order is effective on April 1 and continues up to and including April 14, 2020.

Specific orders relating to health professionals, and health care operations and services, are effective on April 1 and continue until the orders are terminated.

The public health orders relating can be found online at <https://www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/soe.html>

The following is an overview of the key impacts of the public health orders on regulated health professionals and health profession regulatory bodies.

Key Impacts of Public Health Orders on Health Professionals

The public health orders do not restrict the operations or delivery of publicly-funded health care operations and services, including but not limited to hospitals, health centres, personal care homes, ambulance services, medical clinics, RAAM Clinics, access centres, home care services, public health services, midwifery services, laboratory services, diagnostic imaging and mental health and addictions treatment.

Businesses that provide health services that are not publicly funded such as assisted living, supportive housing, private personal support services or home care services, mental health or addictions treatment and residential services for persons with physical or mental disabilities are not required to close.

In addition, pharmacies, medical supply businesses and businesses, which sell, rent or repair assistive devices, mobility devices or medical devices, and other similar devices or supplies are not required to close.

However, if a pharmacy or business allows members of the public to attend at the place of business, the operator must implement measures to ensure that persons attending the place of business are reasonably able to maintain a separation of at least two metres from other persons attending the pharmacy or business (physical distancing).

The orders do not restrict the provision of medical services, nursing services and midwifery services in any practice settings.

Other health professionals, such as psychologists, dentists, optometrists, physiotherapists, and chiropractors can continue to provide services

- to or on behalf of the Government of Canada, Government of Manitoba or a municipality,
- as part of publicly-funded health care operations and services, and,
- for any other business that is permitted to remain open in the public health orders.

However, health professionals other than physicians, nurses and midwives, can only provide in person urgent or emergent care to clients/patients in practice settings other than those listed above (e.g. their business premises). They may however, if it is appropriate for the profession and consistent to the standards of practice of the profession, provide non-urgent and non-emergency services online or by telephone.

Regulated health professionals must continue to practice within their scope of practice and abide by the practice requirements established by regulatory bodies including conditions placed on their registration/licences/certificates of practice, terms and conditions on the performance of reserved acts by members of the profession, standards of practice of the profession and practice directions issued by the regulatory body.

In addition, the order includes the operations regulatory bodies of professions, including health profession regulatory bodies, as critical services so they can have staff in their business premises if required to carry out essential functions such as registration and disciplinary matters.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Brent Roussin', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Brent Roussin, Chief Provincial Public Health Officer
Population and Public Health Branch.