**Updates**

**Mandatory COVID-19 Vaccination**

Manitoba has announced that **designated employees** who work with vulnerable populations must by fully vaccinated for COVID-19 by October 31, 2021 and must provide proof of vaccination to their employer OR undergo frequent COVID-19 testing. The requirement, by Public Health Order, will include **all health care workers employed by or working in areas of direct patient/resident/client care in either public or private health care settings, including hospitals, licensed long-term care facilities, community and home care environments.**

Health care workers, in this Order, will be defined broadly as staff, physicians, students, contractors and volunteers.

Direct health-care providers are further defined as, including but not limited to physicians, nurses, allied health professionals, support services and others deemed appropriate for each site/area/program in public and private health-care settings. The Order includes those direct care providers who may come in contact with patients/residents/clients, patient/resident/client care environments, patient/resident/client care equipment and blood and body fluids.

All health care workers are encouraged to get their first vaccine dose as soon as possible. In order to be compliant with this requirement, individuals must receive their **first dose by September 7, 2021**. To be fully vaccinated by the end of October, individuals must receive their **second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine no later than October 17, 2021**.

Individuals who are not able to be vaccinated for medical reasons, or who choose not to be vaccinated, will be required to undergo regular COVID-19 testing and will be **required to provide proof of a recent negative test** to their employer before each shift.  For designated health care workers, the results of a negative COVID-19 test will be considered valid for 48 hours from the time the swab is performed provided the worker has not developed any symptoms of COVID-19 at the start of their shift.  Details specific to testing will be shared in the coming weeks.

**Masks and eye shields continue to be required in health care settings by all staff and visitors.**

Eye protection is important for designated family caregivers/essential care providers who are not able to maintain physical distancing.

**In addition, the new Public Health orders will include an indoor mask requirement across Manitoba, including in schools.  There will be an expanded list of activities and services that can only be accessed by individuals who are fully vaccinated.  Proof of full vaccination status will be required to be able to participate in these services and activities (more information to come from the province).**

The COVID-19 vaccines are proven to be safe and effective.  They are the best available means to ensure the protection of health care workers, staff, patients, residents and clients against COVID-19 and as we face the likelihood of a fourth wave, evidence shows these vaccines are very effective at preventing severe illness, hospitalization, and death, including against the alpha and the delta variants of concern.

**See the full memo**: <https://sharedhealthmb.ca/wp-content/uploads/mandatory-vaccination-of-health-care-workers-Health-Care-Workers.pdf>

**Read the news release**: <https://news.gov.mb.ca/news/index.html?item=52163&posted=2021-08-24>

**For Frequently Asked Questions visit**: <https://sharedhealthmb.ca/wp-content/uploads/Mandatory-Vaccine-FAQ-Updated.pdf>

While a vaccination requirement is expected to be a significant operational undertaking, requiring education and support, operational leads are working with stakeholders and experts to develop detailed implementation plans and to answer questions from affected individuals. A [Frequently Asked Questions](https://sharedhealthmb.ca/wp-content/uploads/Mandatory-Vaccine-FAQ-Updated.pdf) document has been developed to answer many of the questions we expect health care workers will have regarding this requirement.

As additional information is available, it will be shared in the coming weeks.

Vaccines are readily available at supersites, clinics and pharmacies. **To book your appointment visit** [**www.protectmb.ca**](http://www.protectmb.ca) **or call l 1-844-MAN-VACC (1-844-626-8222) toll-free.**

**As always, up-to-date information is available at the following locations:**

Information for the Public: <https://www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/>

Information for Health Care Providers, Physicians & Staff <https://sharedhealthmb.ca/covid19/providers/>