

MEMO

Date: August 19, 2020

To: All Health Care Workers
From: **Dr. Brent Roussin**
Chief Provincial Public Health Officer
Lanette Siragusa
Chief Nursing Officer, Shared Health

Re: COVID-19 – Pandemic Response System and Reminders to Remain Vigilant

Earlier today, Manitoba released the details of a [Pandemic Response System](#) which shares the current level of risk, provides public health guidance to Manitobans and explains the range of measures that have been put in place to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in Manitoba.

Going forward, Manitoba will update the provincial response level according to the public health indicators and spread of the virus as defined in the [Pandemic Response System](#).

The four levels are:

Red: Critical – community spread is not contained and/or there are significant strains on the health-care system

Orange: Restricted – community transmission of COVID-19 is occurring, public health measures are being taken to manage the negative impact on human health and/or the health system

Yellow: Caution – community transmission of COVID-19 is at low levels

Green: Limited Risk – the spread of COVID-19 is broadly contained and a vaccine and/or effective treatment is available

The current level is Yellow: Caution.

At all response levels, all Manitobans are reminded to follow basic public health guidance, to be vigilant in our daily lives and activities and to be prepared to respond and adapt to changes in the transmission risks presented by COVID-19.

As health-care workers, it is imperative that we take all appropriate and available steps in our personal and professional lives to protect our colleagues, our loved ones and our community from exposure to, and transmission of, COVID-19.

Please ensure familiarity with current public health guidance as well as infection prevention and control measures and ensure your adherence to Provincial Personal Protective Equipment requirements.

- Health-care workers are reminded to stay home when sick, even if symptoms are mild.
- Perform hand hygiene well and often.
- Maintain physical distancing wherever possible. **NOTE: In health care settings, the ability to maintain physical distancing applies to your interaction with patients/residents/clients as well as your interaction with colleagues and co-workers.**
- Use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is a supplement to Routine Practices when worn appropriately and consistently. **Where PPE is required, it is to be provided by the region/site/facility and used as clinically indicated, including eye protection. NOTE: Eye glasses are not acceptable eye protection.**

PPE Requirements and protocols for safely donning and doffing required PPE by referring to: <https://sharedhealthmb.ca/files/covid-19-provincial-ppe-requirements.pdf><https://sharedhealthmb.ca/files/covid-19-ppe-wearing-it-right.pdf>.

Further information on Manitoba's Pandemic Response System is available by referring to <https://manitoba.ca/covid19/restartmb/prs/system.html>.