

COVID-19 External Partner Update # 008	
Date of Issue	April 23, 2020
Time of Issue	1600hrs Any new information that was received after 1600hrs today will be included in the next external partner update.
Questions can be directed to:	PH-EPR@gov.mb.ca .

MANITOBA BY THE NUMBERS

Current information on Manitoba's response to COVID-19 can be found at: <http://www.manitoba.ca/covid19/>.

Confirmed and Probable Cases In Manitoba	Deaths	Recovered
262	6	174

- **Public health officials advise five new cases of COVID-19 were identified as of 9:30 a.m. today, bringing the total number of lab-confirmed positive and probable positive cases in Manitoba to 262. The data also shows:**
 - seven individuals are currently hospitalized including two individuals in intensive care;
 - 82 active cases and 174 individuals who have recovered from COVID-19;
 - the number of deaths due to COVID-19 is six; and
 - 25 health care workers have tested positive for COVID-19. 15 have recovered and returned to work.
- **Cadham Provincial Laboratory performed 327 tests on Wednesday. This brings the total number of tests performed since early February to 21,387.**

Public Health Orders in Effect in Manitoba	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The declaration of a provincial state of emergency in Manitoba was extended for an additional 30 days and remain in effect until May 18. • The Chief Provincial Public Health Officer has updated public health orders that took effect on April 17, and remain in effect until May 1, 2020. The updated orders are as follows: • Anyone entering Manitoba, regardless of whether it was from another country or another province must self-isolate for 14 days. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Travel to northern Manitoba (north of the 53rd parallel of latitude) is prohibited with some exceptions including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ residents of northern and remote communities may continue to move within the north; ▪ delivery of goods and services may continue; and ▪ exceptions include those who travel to the north for employment, medical treatment or to facilitate child-custody agreements. ○ The new orders maintain the gathering size of no more than 10 people at any indoor or outdoor premises. Additional updates include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ a clarification that businesses not listed as critical may operate, and have customers attend to pick up ordered items, providing social distancing measures are in place; ▪ a provision to allow farmers markets to operate, providing social distancing measures are in place; ▪ hotels may operate, but must close common areas such as pools, hot
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	<p>tubs and game rooms;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ campgrounds can provide accommodation to recreational vehicles that act as a primary residence; and ▪ garden centres and greenhouses can operate, providing social distancing measures are in place. <p>Note: Some clarifications have been made to the orders since they were announced on April 16. Clarification on the public health orders and the schedule of critical services can be found online at www.manitoba.ca/covid19/soe.html.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The following restrictions remain in place as they were with previous orders: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ All restaurants and other commercial facilities are prohibited from serving food to customers in their premises. This prevents eat-in dining at all facilities. However, restaurants and other commercial facilities can prepare and serve food for delivery or takeout. If this takes place, the operator of the restaurant must ensure that all people maintain the appropriate social distancing from other customers when picking up food. ○ All businesses that are not listed in the schedule of critical services that accompanies the order must remain closed. ○ This closure order does not prevent these businesses from operating on a remote basis. ○ A business may accept orders on the internet or over the phone for delivery or pickup, as long as the employees are not working at the place of business. ○ The order does not prevent employees or others from coming into the business to perform repairs, to provide security services or to take out items from the business premises if the business is going to operate on a remote basis. ○ Nothing in the order restricts the operations of delivery of services by the federal or provincial governments or a municipality. ○ Nothing in the order restricts any activities of a publicly funded agency, organization or authority that delivers or supports government operations or services including health-care services. This means the order does not affect institutions, agencies and other service providers offering health-care services such as hospitals, regional health authorities and private agencies that provide a range of health services.
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<p>MANITOBA'S HEALTH SECTOR RESPONSE</p>	<p>Testing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Testing criteria has been expanded. It is important for people who meet the testing criteria and are showing even mild symptoms of COVID-19, including a cough, a runny nose, a sore throat and a fever, to be tested to better determine the spread of the virus in Manitoba. • Testing criteria includes symptomatic people in the following categories: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ workers or volunteers at workplaces that have been identified as essential services; ○ people who live with a health-care worker, first responder or worker in a congregate setting such as a correctional facility, shelter, long-term care or residential facility; ○ travellers returning to Manitoba; ○ close contact with a confirmed case; ○ lab workers who have worked with COVID-19 tests; ○ health-care workers; and
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- **first responders.**
- Decisions related to testing for COVID-19 are based on current and evolving public health evidence and are NOT based on client and/or employer requests. Testing advice and recommendations may change as the outbreak continues to evolve. Individuals who are NOT experiencing signs/symptoms of COVID-19 will NOT be tested. In situations where COVID-19 testing is not recommended, a clearance or exclusion letter will NOT be issued for employees to provide to employers. Should you require a letter outlining why testing for COVID-19 is not occurring, click here.
- Assessment clinics offer primary care services on an appointment basis for anyone who has tested positive for COVID-19 or has respiratory symptoms such as fever, cough, sore throat or shortness of breath. These locations also have a separate designated testing area.
- Testing sites and assessment clinics are not walk-in services. People seeking testing are required to call Health Links–Info Santé first or be referred by their primary care provider. Information on locations and hours of operation throughout Manitoba is available at www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/locations.html.

Isolation Supports

- Alternate accommodations are available for health care staff, individuals who require additional support as they self-isolate, and homeless persons who have tested positive or confirmed contact. A referral from Public Health is required.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- **Manitoba has engaged experts to identify the supplies required to protect workers in critical and priority services. Settings and situations have been categorized according to the level of risk to workers and to the population they are caring for and the required PPE has been set out accordingly. These include:**
 - **Green zones: care or service for individuals who are not considered COVID-19 suspects;**
 - **Orange zones: care or service for individuals who meet the criteria for COVID-19 testing, AND who have been tested AND whose results are pending; and**
 - **Red zones: care or service for individuals who have been tested and confirmed to have COVID-19.**
- **To conserve PPE for health-care workers, public health officials are recommending all people who enter a health-care facility wear a cloth mask to protect others. In addition, patients and clients are encouraged to wear non-medical face masks during any health-care interaction, as well as when using public transit, Handi-transit or a taxi.**
- **The Manitoba government received a large order of PPE to help in the fight against COVID-19. This shipment contains 150,000 disposable isolation gowns. This order was supplied by SpiritRx Services, a Manitoba-based medical supply company owned by the Spirit Healthcare Group representing the seven tribal councils of Manitoba.**
- Current inventory of PPE supplies is being closely monitored, and regions and sites continue to be asked to take steps to ensure PPE supplies are maintained and that providers and staff are aware of their appropriate clinical use. Regions

and sites are now collecting N95 masks for reprocessing.

- A process for PPE requests from government departments outside of Health has been established by Manitoba Emergency Measures Organization. Departmental Logistics leads are to communicate PPE needs to MECC.Logistics@gov.mb.ca

Health Care Staffing

- **The Manitoba government will provide health-care staff paid administrative leave for the 14-day period of asymptomatic self-isolation due to COVID-19. If a worker becomes symptomatic during self-isolation, they will be compensated by sick leave benefits, pursuant to their collective agreement. This would apply to leave between March 1, 2020, and a date to be prescribed in regulation, specified once the pandemic is over.**
- **To reduce the risk of exposure to seniors, a plan is being enacted to limit the movement of staff working in more than one personal care home.**

COVID-19 Relief

- **The Manitoba government is investing an additional \$300 million to COVID-19 support and relief. [News Release - April 17, 2020](#)**

Restart Strategy

- **Planning is underway to develop a staged restart strategy as appropriate based on health care system indicators.**

Screening Procedures

- New provincial guidance and screening tools in relation to screening of health care staff across the system are in place. The new screening procedures apply to staff working in acute and long-term care facilities
- To protect the health of patients, staff and volunteers, visitor access at all Manitoba hospitals has been suspended. An update to Acute Care facility visitor restrictions can be found at [Acute-care-visitor-restrictions update.pdf](#)
- Exceptions for compassionate reasons will remain the same. For pediatric patients one parent or guardian will be allowed to visit at a time following screening.
- Surgery programs across Manitoba have suspended elective (non-urgent) surgical procedures.
- Hospitals across the province will continue with scheduled surgeries for cancer, trauma and other surgeries that cannot be delayed. Time-sensitive orthopedic, obstetrical, gynecology and ophthalmology surgeries will also continue. Surgery slates will be examined to ensure proper patient care continues and any affected patients will be contacted about changes to their care.
- In general, any person displaying symptoms who is concerned about their exposure to or risk of having COVID-19 should call Health Links–Info Santé at 204-788-8200 or toll-free at 1-888-315-9257 to be screened to see if a test is required before arriving at testing location. An online screening tool for COVID-19 is also available at www.manitoba.ca/covid19. Manitobans who prefer to complete the self-screening tool by phone rather than online can call (toll-free) 1-877-308-9038.

	<p>Psychosocial and Mental Health Supports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Free counselling and health services to Manitobans of all ages during COVID-19 pandemic (April 20, 2020) *NEW*</u> • <u>AbilitiCBT-Virtual Therapy (April 16, 2020)</u> • <u>COVID-19 Anxiety Support Line (Anxiety Disorders Association of Manitoba) (March 29, 2020)</u> • <u>Sara Riel 24-hour Warm-line</u> • <u>Virtual Crisis Response Services (Adult) (April 5, 2020)</u> • <u>Employee Assistance Program Connect Now service (April 8, 2020)</u>
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CANADA CURRENT STATE (Source: Public Health Agency of Canada April 23, 2020 and John Hopkins University*)

Confirmed and probable cases	Deaths	Recovered
40,824	2,028	14,772*

Detailed provincial statistics can be found at Public Health Agency of Canada website: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection.html>

- Prime Minister Trudeau announced the following:
 - April 23: an additional \$1.1 billion for a national medical and research strategy to address COVID-19. The strategy has three pillars: research on vaccines and other treatments, supports for clinical trials and expanding national testing and modelling.
 - April 22: \$9 billion in measures to support students, including the Canada Emergency Student Benefit, student jobs and grants, and targeted supports for Indigenous students.
 - April 21: \$350 million Emergency Community Support Fund to support charities and non-profit organizations to help them adapt to challenges of the pandemic.
 - April 21: Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy, which gives qualifying employers up to \$847 per employee each week to keep employees on payroll. A new calculator on the CRA website to help businesses know what they can expect to claim through the wage subsidy.
 - April 19: The COVID-19 Disability Advisory Group was launched last week to address access, information and support for jobs and income for all Canadians.
 - April 19th: The Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) was expanded to include workers making up to \$1000 per month, seasonal workers and those whose EI benefits have run out.
 - April 18: The Canada-U.S. border will remain closed to non-essential travel for another 30 days in an effort to prevent the further spread of COVID-19.
 - April 17: Canadian Forces members with medical training will be sent to Quebec to assist long-term care homes struggling with growing COVID-19 outbreaks.

GLOBAL CURRENT STATE (Source: John Hopkins Research Public Health-www.coronavirus.jhu.edu/map as of April 23, 2020 1600hrs.)

Total Confirmed Cases	Total Deaths	Total Recovered
2,682,225	187,330	732,647

- Global case counts of COVID-19 surpassed two million on April 15, 2020.
- On April 10, 2020 the global death toll surpassed 100,000.