

COVID-19 External Partner Update # 012	
Date of Issue	May 20, 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:	COVID19IM@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
290	7	260

- Public health officials advise no new cases of COVID-19 have been identified as of 9:30 a.m. today. The total number of lab-confirmed positive and probable positive cases in Manitoba is 290. The data also shows:
 - one individual is currently hospitalized, with none in intensive care;
 - 23 active cases and 260 individuals who have recovered from COVID-19; and
 - the number of deaths due to COVID-19 remains at seven.
- As of yesterday, an additional 245 laboratory tests were performed. This brings the total number of tests performed since early February to 35,820.

Public Health Orders in Effect in Manitoba	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As of Friday, May 22, public health orders will be modified to increase the limit on gathering size to 25 people for indoor premises and 50 for outdoor areas, providing social distancing measures are in place. <u>Current orders</u> maintain the gathering size of no more than 10 people at any indoor or outdoor premises. 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. This order was extended on May 17 for an additional 30 days. Public health orders restricting staff from working in more than one licensed personal care home (PCH) took effect May 1. The single site restriction is intended to provide additional protection against the introduction and/or spread of the COVID-19 virus within PCHs. Manitoba has begun a careful, multi-phased effort to gradually restore services, open some businesses and increase recreational opportunities while maintaining social distancing advice. <i>Restoring Safe Services: Manitoba's Pandemic and Economic Roadmap for Recovery</i> is available at www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/restoring/. Businesses with questions about how the new orders apply to them should visit https://engagemb.ca/. <u>Restoring Services (Phase One)</u> – Began May 4: Critical public health measures and travel restrictions remain. Priority elective surgeries have been restarted, diagnostics screening will resume and some non-essential businesses will
---	---

reopen but must limit occupancy to 50 per cent of normal business levels or one person per 10 square metres, whichever is lower. Services, businesses and venues include:

- non-urgent surgery and diagnostic procedures;
 - therapeutic and medical services;
 - retail businesses;
 - restaurants – patio/walk-up services;
 - hair salons;
 - museums, galleries and libraries;
 - seasonal day camps; and
 - outdoor recreation and campgrounds.
- The province will continually re-evaluate and adjust plans for further easing of secondary public health measures and may reintroduce others.
 - Restoring Services (Phase Two) – No Earlier Than June 1: Critical public health measures and travel restrictions may remain in place. Public gathering sizes may be increased and more non-essential businesses will be considered for reopening.
 - Future Phases: Public health measures may be eased further. Additional guidelines will be developed, public gathering sizes will be increased and some non-essential business will fully open. Others may begin to reopen, such as bars, pools and spas, movie theatres and indoor recreational facilities. Travel restrictions may be eased. Specific considerations for other businesses and sectors may be made.
 - Mass gatherings such as concerts, summer festivals and major sporting events will not be considered before September 2020.
 - The Department of Families will continue to work with the child-care community to expand the temporary child-care services available, including a grant available to child-care providers seeking to open a new, home-based child-care service. More information on child-care services during COVID-19, including a self-serve child care website, can be found at www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/infomanitobans/childcare.html.
 - The Chief Provincial Public Health Officer (CPPHO) issued new public health orders on April 30, 2020. The orders extended the mandate that anyone entering Manitoba, regardless of whether it was from another country or another province must self-isolate for 14 days until such time as the orders are terminated by the CPPHO. However, there are exceptions to allow for situations in which work is deemed vital and necessary immediately upon arrival. For more information see: [Public Health Order- Self Isolation](#)
 - Travel to northern Manitoba (north of the 53rd parallel of latitude) and to remote communities that are not connected to the provincial highway system by a year-round all-weather road is prohibited until the orders are terminated by the CPPHO. The orders provide for some exceptions to this prohibition; for more information see: [Public Health Order - Northern Travel](#).
 - **The Manitoba government has designated additional provincial government officials to enforce public health emergency orders and emergency health hazard orders in response to COVID-19. In total, more than 3,000 provincial and municipal personnel can be deployed to enforce COVID-related orders. As with other enforcement agencies, tickets will be issued as a last resort.**

MANITOBA'S HEALTH SECTOR RESPONSE

MHSAL/Shared Health COVID-19 Incident Management

- Questions related to MHSAL/Shared Health COVID-19 Incident Management may now be directed to COVID19IM@gov.mb.ca. Effective Friday, May 15, the PH-EPR@gov.mb.ca mailbox will be closed, with an out of office message directing inquiries to Manitoba Government Inquiry at mgi@gov.mb.ca or to Ask Health at askhealth@gov.mb.ca.
- Media briefings on the COVID-19 situation in Manitoba will occur only on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.
- MHSAL/Shared Health COVID-19 Incident Management is operating Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. On Tuesdays, Thursdays, and weekends the Emergency Operations Centre will be closed. Situation Status Reports will not be issued on Saturdays and Sundays. For urgent Incident Management assistance on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and weekends, please call Shared Health Emergency Management on-call 204-794-2478.

Testing

- **On May 19, a new community testing site opened in Winnipeg at Thunderbird House, 715 Main St. This is Winnipeg's fifth community testing site and Manitoba's 17th location.**
- As of May 14, community testing sites will accept self-referrals. Individuals are not required to call Health Links before going to a test site.
- The first mobile testing unit has been launched in Winnipeg. This appointment-based service provides at-home testing to homebound and immunocompromised individuals from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., seven days a week. Referrals can be made through Health Links or the COVID-19 Response Centre.
- Manitobans who have been tested for COVID-19 can access their negative test results on a secure online portal. People being tested will receive information about how to register to access their results at <https://sharedhealthmb.ca/covid19/test-results/>. A Manitoba Health card is required. Those without a Manitoba Health card or internet access can retrieve their results by calling 1-844-960-1984. As always, public health officials will directly notify Manitobans who have tested positive for COVID-19.
- Effective immediately, the province is expanding testing criteria to any Manitoban with symptoms of COVID-19, even mild symptoms including a cough, runny nose, sore throat and/or fever.
- Information on locations and hours of operation throughout Manitoba is available at www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/locations.html.

Long Term Care

- **Work is underway to allow limited outdoor visitation at personal care homes. Individual facilities are putting procedures in place and will be contacting families directly to provide details, including the start date, locations, and hours for visitation. Facilities are expected to have this in place by Friday, May 29.**
- [Infection Prevention and Control Guidance for Personal Care Homes](#) is available online.
- Starting on May 1, health care staff are only allowed to work at one personal care home, to reduce the risk of exposure to seniors.

Prescription Drugs

- The Manitoba government has lifted the one-month supply limit on prescription drugs. Manitobans who have prescriptions for long-term medications will be able to fill them as per their prescriber's directions up to a three-month supply if the drug is not affected by shortages.

“New Normal”

- The next few weeks will provide Manitobans with the opportunity to *slowly* move away from some of the restrictions that have been in place over the past few months but it is important to remember that this “new normal” is not business as usual. There will continue to be provincial oversight of the gradual reopen.

Surgery

- A gradual resumption of surgical care will occur at sites across the province, focused on the highest priority patients. This is not a resumption of normal service levels. A phased approach is being implemented to address the highest priority areas first.

Diagnostics and Laboratory Services

- Diagnostic services are aiming to schedule 2,000 diagnostic imaging appointments by May 22, including MRI, ultrasound, and CT scans. Postponed/canceled appointments will be rescheduled first. Patients will be contacted directly about scheduling their appointment.
- Clinical guidelines have been updated to ensure that high-priority appointments are scheduled in Diagnostic Imaging and Cardiac Testing. This is not a resumption of normal service levels. A phased approach is being implemented to address the highest priority areas first. Laboratory services need to remain at essential service levels.

Primary Care and Outpatient Clinics

- Practices should continue patient screening and use virtual options to reduce in-clinic volumes where appropriate. Ideally, most practices should plan for the provision of 2/3 of their visits to be performed virtually for the immediate future.
- Telephone screening prior to appointments, use of appropriate signage and screening upon entry are all tools that can aid in the identification of patients with potential influenza-like illness or COVID-19 symptoms so they can be appropriately managed.

Racial, Ethnic and Indigenous Identifiers

- Public Health is collecting race, ethnicity and Indigenous identifiers for all COVID-19 positive cases in order to provide information about how COVID-19 is impacting specific populations that have been identified in other jurisdictions, and through experience with past respiratory illnesses, to be disproportionately and negatively impacted. This data will be vital to ensuring the provincial health system is able to deliver equitable, high quality health care in all settings and to all communities.
- The Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs endorsed the proposed race and ethnicity identifiers for COVID-19 data.
- An information sharing agreement for COVID-19 data has been reached with First Nations communities – the first of its kind in Canada. Work is underway on a similar agreement with Inuit communities.

Modelling

- On April 29, health officials released information about the models developed to inform the management plan for the COVID-19 pandemic in Manitoba. As new information is received, officials will continue to refine the projections, models and health advice.
- Modelling shows that the Manitoba health care system is within its capacity. Still, planning is underway to add an additional 300 beds and an additional 100 intensive care beds for COVID-19 patients, if needed. Additional capacity options are being investigated if they are necessary.

Provincial COVID-19 Dashboard

- A dashboard on COVID-19 in Manitoba is available at:
<https://manitoba.ca/covid19/updates/index.html>

Isolation/Accommodation 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 is part of a national effort to share important medical equipment and 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.
- 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

COVID-19 Relief

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

Screening Procedures

- Provincial guidance and screening tools in relation to the screening of health care staff across the system remain in place. The new screening procedures apply to staff working in acute and long-term care facilities.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To protect the health of patients, staff and volunteers, visitor access at all Manitoba hospitals remains 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. • In general, any person displaying symptoms who is concerned about their exposure to or risk of having COVID-19 may use the online screening tool at www.manitoba.ca/covid19. Individuals may also call Health Links at 204-788-8200 or toll-free at 1-888-315-9257 to be screened. Those 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"> • COVID-19 grief counselling • Self-care during COVID-19 pocket card • Mini Modules to Relieve Stress For Healthcare Workers Responding to COVID-19: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Stress Management Exercise ○ Leading Towards Organizational Wellness in an Emergency ○ Creating a Practical Self-Care Plan in Difficult Times • Free counselling and health services to Manitobans of all ages during COVID-19 pandemic • AbilitiCBT-Virtual Therapy • COVID-19 Anxiety Support Line (Anxiety Disorders Association of Manitoba) • Sara Riel 24-hour Warm-line • Virtual Crisis Response Services (Adult) • Employee Assistance Program Connect Now service
--	--

CANADA CURRENT STATE (Source: Public Health Agency of Canada May 20, 2020 and John Hopkins Research Public Health*)

Confirmed and probable cases	Deaths	Recovered
79,112	5,912	40,692*

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:

- **May 20:**
 - The Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance Program, which will provide forgivable loans to landlords so they can reduce rent for small business tenants that have lost revenue due to COVID-19.
 - Applications for the larger employer emergency financing facility, which provides bridge loans to Canada's largest companies, opens today.
- **May 19:**
 - Canada-U.S. border will remain closed for at least another 30 days to stop the spread of COVID-19.
 - The government is expanding the eligibility rules for the interest-free loan program for small businesses, giving businesses without payrolls access to government-backed loans of up to \$40,000 each.

- Changes to the Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA) mean the program is now available to sole proprietors who draw income from their businesses; businesses that rely on contractors; and family-owned corporations that pay employees through dividends rather than payroll.
- **May 15:**
 - \$450 million for researchers and research institutions.
 - The Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy will be extended by three months, until the end of August.
 - Students and recent graduates can now apply for the Canada Emergency Student Benefit.
- **May 14:**
 - An investment of \$469.4 million to support fish harvesters. The new measures include an industry-specific benefit, a grant program and changes to Employment Insurance rules.
 - \$100 million Agriculture and Food Business Solution Fund to help agribusiness companies facing financial strain.
 - Support for Indigenous peoples and communities, including:
 - \$360 million to provide interest-free loans and non-repayable contributions to Indigenous businesses.
 - More than \$75 million to support First Nations, Inuit, and Métis students, as well as helping young people find summer jobs in their communities.
 - \$10 million in emergency shelters for indigenous women and children facing violence.
 - In June, some National Parks will be partially reopening where physical distancing is possible.

GLOBAL CURRENT STATE (Source: John Hopkins Research Public Health- www.coronavirus.jhu.edu/map as of May 20, 2020 1432hrs.)

Total Confirmed Cases	Total Deaths	Total Recovered
4,955,312	325,810	1,874,998

- Global case counts of COVID-19 surpassed four million on May 9.
- As of April 30, over 1 million people globally have recovered from COVID-19.
- The total number of deaths globally from COVID-19 surpassed 200,000 on April 25, 2020.