



## Regional Covid19 All-Staff Update

By Southern Health-Santé Sud  
Jane Curtis – CEO  
April 22, 2020

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Hello, I'm Jane Curtis, CEO of Southern Health-Santé Sud, and this is the regional All-Staff Update released April 22, 2020.

### Stay Informed

- Please note that these regional COVID-19 Audio Updates highlight only some of the most recent information.
- Please visit the [Southern Health-Santé Sud](#) Health Providers Site (HPS for short) to view all available information and resources.
- A direct link is also available directly from our public website southernhealth.ca for ease of access.

I would like to start this week with a message of heartfelt thanks, expressing my deepest gratitude to our healthcare team, the thousands of employees, medical staff and volunteers who have been working tirelessly and constantly above and beyond since the start of our COVID-19 response. Your role has been vital to keeping each other safe in this time.

### Clinical Response

- As I am recording this message, new provincial guidelines for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) have just been released. As we do with all provincial protocols and guidelines, a Southern Health-Santé Sud working group will be reviewing these today to gain a full understanding. Regional implementation will be in consistent alignment with provincial direction. More information will be included soon in a Southern Health-Santé Sud Call to Action. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

- Over the past week, the number of lab-confirmed positive and probable positive cases in Manitoba has slowed significantly. Although this is very good news, it does not mean that we can relax our efforts to flatten the curve. It does however show that our efforts are proving to be effective.
- Effective April 19, all Emergency Departments are required to test any patients that present with Influenza like Illnesses.

*Memo: [COVID-19 Testing in Acute Care](#)*

- Guidelines to support safe management of food and beverages in health care facilities has been developed. To ensure the health and safety of patients, clients, residents and staff, food deliveries will be permitted but must follow Infection Prevention and Control Guidance.
- I encourage you to visit our HPS for more info.

*Memo: [COVID-19 Provincial Management of Food and Beverages in Health Care Environments](#)*

Emergency Medical Services has created a short video on COVID-19. The video provides information on how the virus works and spreads. It provides staff with guidance on how to prevent the spread at work as well as at home. The [link to the video](#) is included in the script version of the April 22 update.

**Further to last week's post, I'd like to share a few more stories which highlight how so many of you are being creative even in these challenging times.**

- On April 17, Emergency First Responders conducted a drive by appreciation parade at the Boundary Trails Health Centre. Staff present described the event as heartwarming and moving. A [link to the video](#) is included in the script version of the April 22 update.
- As well, a picture displaying the front entrance at Bethesda Regional Health Centre displaying posters from the community was shared.



*Front Entrance at Bethesda Regional Health Centre displaying thank you posters from the community.*

*Source: Jo-Anne Marion – Director of Health Services – Bethesda Regional Health Centre*

**I encourage you all to share your stories with me displaying such generous and kind support. Thank you.**

In closing, I want to remind you that efforts to keep our communities safe are only as effective as our combined individual contributions. More than ever, we are counting on you to:

- Stay home if you are sick.
- Avoid travel outside of Manitoba
- Self-Isolate for 14 days if you have travelled outside of Manitoba.
- Follow routine practices and practice meticulous hand hygiene.
- Keep informed.
- Lastly, keep yourself healthy – in body, mind and spirit.

A reminder that resources for staff health and safety are accessible directly from [the HPS](#), also accessible from the Public Website homepage.

It is said that great occasions do not make heroes; they simply unveil them to our eyes. We have seen heroes of kindness and compassion, heroes of perseverance and strength, heroes of healing and guidance, heroes of courage.

**Thank you everyone. Know that you are valued. We will get through this together.**