



## Regional Covid19 All-Staff Update

By Southern Health-Santé Sud  
Jane Curtis – CEO  
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**Hello, I'm Jane Curtis, CEO of Southern Health-Santé Sud, and this is the regional All-Staff Update released May 6, 2020.**

### **Stay Informed**

- Please note that these regional 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](http://southernhealth.ca)

This week marks phase one of the provincial plan to restore services in Manitoba. Although we are preparing to cautiously relax some of the restrictions meant to prevent the spread of COVID-19, it remains critical that we all continue to respect social and physical distancing requirements, practice strict hand hygiene, and stay home if you are ill.

The next few weeks will see many changes that will have an impact on many of our staff.

- A gradual resumption of surgical care will occur, with emphasis on high priority patients. A phased approach is being implemented.

- Efforts are underway to implement a phased approach to restore diagnostic and laboratory services. Clinical guidelines have been updated to ensure high-priority appointments are prioritized.
- Primary Care and Outpatient Clinics 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. Increases to in-person visits require careful consideration on the impacts to space, staff resources and Personal Protective Equipment.

We each have an important role in ensuring the success of the gradual reopening of our province. With that said, the following restrictions will remain in an effort to reduce the spread:

- Ongoing efforts to conserve Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) continue. Appropriate use of PPE is a requirement. The COVID-19 pandemic is ongoing and will continue to evolve. Ensuring the availability of PPE for the duration of the pandemic is in everyone's best interest.
- Visitor restrictions at health care facilities remain in place.
- Staff screening also remain in place. Please do not come to work if you have any symptoms.
- Social and physical distancing in elevators, during meetings and breaks remain status quo.
- Wherever possible, continue to conduct business and operational meetings by phone or internet.

- Only use small lunchrooms, meeting rooms, staff lounges for coffee breaks or lunch if physical distancing can be maintained. Utilize spaces that allow for the required physical distancing measures to be observed.

It remains important that we be vigilant throughout our day-to-day activities both at home and at work. I know that you have all been greatly impacted by the many changes over the last few months. I thank you for your flexibility in quickly adapting to these changes and the measures in place to keep us all safe.

Moments of uncertainty, such as what we are experiencing, can potentially have an impact on our mental well-being and we are here for you. For more information, please visit [southernhealth.ca](http://southernhealth.ca) and click on '[Mental Health Supports](#)' to help you and others.

**This week I am pleased to share with you a few more examples that were shared with me of how staff have gone above and beyond by embracing change with creativity and positive attitudes.**

- When wipes for washing eyewear in a Medical Unit ran low, staff in the unit established a washing station dedicated for cleaning eyewear. Not only did this solution address an operational requirement, but also it helped to reduce supply usage.
- Many sites and many staff have established additional cleaning of surfaces every four hours to keep their workspace extra clean during the pandemic. They continue to conduct routine cleaning every four hours to improve patient and staff safety.
- The Cancer Care department at Boundary is a very small department that has applied some major creativity in reorganizing their department to

comply with physical distancing requirements. This has been especially important considering the vulnerability of their patient demographic.

- So clearly good deeds are contagious.

I realize these are the stories we have heard. I know that there are many untold stories and unsung heroes across our region. And for that - I want to commend all of you who, on a daily basis, embrace the challenges with creativity while prioritizing patient safety and care

**Lin Yutang speaks of an analogy we are all too familiar within rural Manitoba: 'Hope is like a road in the country. There was never a road, but when many people walk on it, the road comes into existence.'**

**Thank you for listening to this update, stay safe and take care.**