

This guideline has been reviewed and adjusted to reflect Southern Health-Santé Sud protocols and policies.

COVID-19 Guideline for Screening of Manitoba Health Workers

Public Health Officials have directed all international travelers to self-isolate and self-monitor for symptoms for 14 days following their return to Canada. This is effective March 15, 2020. Health care workers who returned from international travel prior to March 15, 2020 are directed to follow the occupational health advice that was in place at the time of their return from travel.

Symptomatic Physicians and Staff

All symptomatic physicians and staff in Southern Health-Santé Sud, returning from international travel must immediately self-isolate and self-identify to their site Infection Prevention & Control Practitioner during regular business hours. Community and administrative program staff should call regional Infection Control Coordinators, Ginette Lafreniere at 204-326-6411 ext 2186 or Shelly Rempel at 204-326-6411 ext 2190 during regular business hours.

For after hours, staff should call provincial Occupational Health Covid-19 screening line at 1-888-203-4066 on Saturdays and Sundays from 8am-4pm or Health links on evenings and weekends toll-free at 1-888-315-9257.

Physicians and staff cannot attend work until negative test results are received AND symptoms have resolved. Please note that even if a negative test result is received, staff with influenza like illness symptoms should not attend work until they feel well and have been afebrile (without fever) without the use of fever lowering medications for 24 hours.

Asymptomatic Physicians

All asymptomatic physicians who are returning from international travel are directed to self-isolate and contact their site/sector medical director, as applicable, or their organization's Chief Medical Officer who will determine if they are required to attend the workplace or are deemed "operationally required" for their respective service area.

For exemptions deemed necessary, medical leadership must consult with Dr. Allen Kraut, Medical Director, Occupational and Environmental Safety & Health, Winnipeg Regional Health Authority, in order for a risk assessment to be conducted related to the physician's travel exposure. Further information regarding this process will be provided by the respective Chief Medical Officer of each regional health authority/service delivery organization.

Asymptomatic health care workers (non-physician)

All asymptomatic staff returning from international travel must immediately self-isolate and self-

identify to their site Infection Prevention & Control Practitioner during regular business hours. Community and administrative program staff should call regional Infection Control Coordinators Ginette Lafreniere at 204-326-6411 ext 2186 or Shelly Rempel at 204-326-6411 ext 2190 during regular business hours.

For after hours, staff should call provincial Occupational Health Covid-19 screening line at 1-888-203-4066 on Saturdays and Sundays from 8am-4pm or Health links on evenings and weekends toll-free at 1-888-315-9257.

Operationally required health care workers (including staff and physicians)

* "Operationally Required" means a position that is deemed necessary to ensure the ongoing operations of the department/unit. This may include positions that directly deliver front-line clinical services and those positions that provide a support function related to the provision of clinical services (food services, laundry, housekeeping, facility management, health information, pharmacy, etc.)

- For staff deemed “**operationally required**” for service (“operationally required” is to be determined by the manager, considering service area needs), managers should consult with the Infection Prevention & Control Practitioner to discuss risks, taking into account the type of work, exposure to high risk clients, and the relevant travel exposure to determine if an exemption can be made. NOTE: It is the responsibility of each manager to determine the staffing level needs required for their respective areas to function safely.
- If deemed operationally required, health care workers and physicians must self-monitor for symptoms, including monitoring their temperature twice a day and wearing a mask for the duration of their shift and self-monitoring period. Infection Prevention & Control direction related to masks includes avoiding touching the face during patient care and ensuring nose, mouth, and chin are covered when wearing. Change masks if they become wet or soiled (from the wearer’s breathing or due to an external splash), if breathing becomes difficult, OR following interaction with a patient on Additional Precautions. For full directions, refer to: <https://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/docs/ipc/rpap.pdf>
- In some cases approval may not be granted. Criteria may change based on the ever-changing nature of the situation. Presently, returning travelers from CDC Level 3 Risk **will not be approved to work**. See here for the most recent list of Countries with a Level 3 Risk. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/after-travel-precautions.html>
- Exceptions are in place to allow for health care workers and physicians who travel within another country and travel regularly within Canada to work (including remote fly-in communities). These health care workers are subject to the same guidelines for symptomatic or asymptomatic status as above.

Precautions to be taken, if deemed “Operationally Required” and approved to return

Healthcare workers (Staff and Physicians) must:

- self-monitor for symptoms using the temperature self-monitoring form
- wear a procedure mask and follow all required PPE guidelines for the duration of every shift
- follow all self-isolation guidelines when not at work for the full 14 day period.
- if symptoms develop, immediately remove themselves from work, self-isolate and notify Infection Prevention & Control Practitioner and their manager. Refer to section above for Symptomatic Physicians and Staff.

Staff Resources

What do I do while waiting for my test results? Fact Sheet

https://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/factsheets/coronavirus_waiting.pdf

Self-Isolation Fact Sheet

https://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/factsheets/coronavirus_selfisolation.pdf

Novel Coronavirus Fact Sheet (Contains Advice for Self-monitoring)

<https://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/factsheets/coronavirus.pdf>

Temperature Self-Monitoring Form

<https://www.southernhealth.ca/assets/HPS-Programs-and-Services/IPC/nCor/8ba0a57082/Covid-19-Temperature-Self-Monitoring-Form.pdf>