

The Manitoba government is installing up to 100 outdoor visitation shelters (OVS) and 60 indoor visitation shelters (IVS) at personal care homes throughout Manitoba to support personal care home (PCH) resident quality and safe visitation with loved ones during the COVID-19 pandemic. These shelters are currently in active construction and installation. This project requires contractors and trades-people (“workers”) to enter the PCH to undertake construction/installation and other related functions.

These workers are designated as essential services and are allowed to enter facilities to undertake work. Concerns have been expressed about workers working between multiple sites with different COVID-19 code levels (red, orange, yellow). A balance of protection and continuation of work is required to ensure shelters are established to enable resident visitation with their loved ones.

Public health principles to follow during this specific construction project are as follows, applicable to all COVID-19 code levels (red, orange, yellow):

- All construction projects in healthcare must follow Canadian Standards Association Z317 Infection Control during Construction, Renovation and Maintenance.
- Worker training should include overall infection, prevention and control principles related to construction and the measures workers must follow as specified herein, including hand hygiene education, proper procedures for donning and doffing of personal protection equipment (PPE), and any other COVID-19 prevention measures determined required.
- Workers must have visible IDs at all times.
- When workers are inside facilities and beyond the hoarding (i.e. outside of the construction zone) they must wear eye protection, masks, and disposable single use gloves.
- Wherever possible, the work schedule should avoid scheduling workers at different COVID-19 code levels (i.e. red to orange, yellow to red, etc).
- Workers must change gloves, masks and eye protection at the beginning of their shift or when moving between sites.
- Workers presenting to the construction site must use the daily screening tool and be asked to stay home or go home if any symptoms, even if mild, are present or if any exposures have occurred. Contractors should have well documented procedures for screening and communication with workers.
  - o A site with known COVID-19 does not constitute an exposure. An exposure is defined as:
    - close contact (within two metres) for more than 15 minutes
    - direct exposure to infectious body fluids
    - providing direct care for someone with COVID-19
    - exposure notification via contract tracing or public notice
- Working at a PCH site with an outbreak does not constitute an exposure unless exposed to staff or residents who weren’t wearing PPE.

- When entering a facility, workers are required to follow the facility's active screening and PPE procedures, including signing in/out and clearly delineating and following facility access/restrictions.
- Workers must practice proper hand hygiene by washing their hands with soap and water for at least 15 seconds or use alcohol-based hand sanitizer when entering or leaving the PCH or their designated construction area.
- Workers must limit contact so there is no contact with PCH residents and limited contact with facility administrators and staff.
- If workers must enter an area of the PCH outside of their construction zone, workers must enter and leave through a designated entrance. Otherwise, workers should only utilize the entrance within their construction area and avoid entry into the PCH facility entirely.
- Workers must use designated portable washrooms located outside the PCH.
- Facility concerns requiring escalation should be brought forward by the designated regional health authority project lead, who will engage regional and provincial Infection Prevention and Control as necessary.