

MEMO

Date: February 11, 2022
To: All Health-Care Workers
From: Dr. Brent Roussin, Chief Provincial Public Health Officer
Dr. David Matear, Provincial COVID-19 Incident Commander
Re: **An Update on COVID-19 Public Health Restrictions**

Earlier today, a phased loosening of public health orders over the coming weeks was announced. We anticipate there will be questions about what these changes will mean for the health system, where response to COVID-19 remains a significant area of focus and operational priority. We want to provide the following reassurance.

Over the coming weeks, while Manitobans begin to return to more normal activities permitted by these changing public health requirements, our health system will continue to support both COVID and non-COVID care. Together with Public Health, Manitoba's Health Incident Command will continue to closely monitor key metrics, including occupancy, capacity and staffing, as well as epidemiological modelling. All indications at present, hospitalizations and staff sick time included, point to an improving situation ahead.

We can expect to see some increase in transmission of the virus as restrictions ease and the Provincial COVID-19 Incident Command structure remains in place with plans to increase capacity, should it be required.

We know that many staff remain redeployed from their usual duties, home facility or program, and we will be working with all service delivery organizations for an orderly return of our workforce as soon as operationally possible.

A transition from COVID response to regular operations, however, will take some time and will include consideration of both the need to ensure the safety of our patients, residents and clients and the desire that we all have to return staff and reunite teams. This work will also include planning for the orderly recovery of services that have been impacted over the past two years and we will work closely with the Diagnostic and Surgical Recovery Task Force to ensure that a return to more regular operations includes prioritization of the services and procedures that must be restored most quickly.

We remain grateful for the efforts of health-care workers across Manitoba and acknowledge that within the health system, the demands of the pandemic are not yet over, though they are certainly lessening. Thank you for your work in the days and weeks ahead.