

MEMO

Date: November 26, 2020
To: Chief Medical Officers (NRHA,WRHA,IERHA,PMH,SHSS, Shared Health)
CC: Doctors Manitoba, Manitoba Trucking Association
From: Lanette Siragusa, Chief Nursing Officer, Shared Health

Re: COVID 19 – Essential Travelers and Primary Care Services

Manitoba's essential travelers are supporting our province in immeasurable ways, transporting goods in and out of our province's borders. Workers in this category are therefore exempt from the current Public Health requirement to isolate for 14 days following their return to Manitoba.

When accessing health services, these essential travelers are not to be turned away due to their recent travels. Rather, services are to be provided with several additional precautions to ensure the protection and safety of all.

In response to concerns raised by Manitoba's Trucking Association and several independent essential travelers, the following pathways have been established to ensure timely access to care for this valuable workforce.

Primary Care / Family Doctor

- Essential Travelers seeking health care services from their family doctor or primary care provider should call ahead to ensure the clinic/provider is appropriately prepared to provide care to an essential traveler. Most, but not all, practices have access to personal protective equipment (PPE) and will be able to assess the traveler in person while others may identify virtual or alternate options for the appointment.
- Clinics/Physicians that do not have the necessary PPE to provide direct patient care to an essential traveler will refer the patient to an alternate practice OR to the Respiratory Symptom/Influenza Like Illness Assessment Clinics which have been/are being established across the province.
- Respiratory/ILI Clinics are equipped to assess and treat essential travelers in need of primary care services, regardless of whether their needs are related to symptoms of COVID-19 or another concern.

Winnipeg – The Clinic/Family Physician should initiate contact with the centralized COVID-19 Response Unit to set up an appointment. There are clinics throughout the city.

Prairie Mountain Health - Patients should visit:

<https://www.prairiemountainhealth.ca/respiratory-assessment-clinic>

Interlake Eastern Regional Health Authority – work is underway to establish a clinic in the region. In the meantime, patients may request an appointment at a Winnipeg location.

Southern Health-Santé Sud – Patients will soon have access in Winkler and Steinbach, with details to come on the region's website.

Northern Health Region – these services are available in all Primary Care clinics. Patients should visit: <https://northernhealthregion.com/our-locations/> to find a clinic, health centre or nursing station nearby.

Alternate Health Care Services

- Essential Travelers seeking alternate services (e.g. dental, optometry, should first contact the office or clinic at which they plan to seek care.
- Most, but not all, practices will have access to the necessary PPE.