

MEMO

Date: March 17, 2020 **UPDATED**

To: Health System Leaders, Acute Care Facilities, Long Term Care Facilities

From: **Dr. Brent Roussin**
Chief Provincial Public Health Officer
Lanette Siragusa, Provincial Lead
Health System Integration & Quality,
Chief Nursing Officer, Shared Health

Re: **COVID-19 – Visitor Restrictions at Acute & Long-Term Care Facilities, including Adult Day Programs**

Given the evolving COVID-19 situation, we are now implementing elevated precautions to protect our patients, many of whom have underlying medical conditions that put them at greatest risk of becoming severely ill due to COVID-19.

Public health officials and health system leaders have agreed to the following measures:

For **Long-Term Care Facilities**, we are recommending the immediate suspension of visitor access. Exceptions for compassionate reasons or end of life should be made on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of individual facility managers.

For **Adult Day Programs** and similar programming located within long-term care or personal care facilities, we are recommending the immediate suspension of all programming.

All other Adult Day Programs may continue provided they comply with the recommendations of social distancing, appropriate screening and do not exceed the recommended restriction on social gatherings of less than 50 people.

The following individuals should **NOT** participate in **Adult Day Programs**. Those who have:

- Returned from international travel in the last 14 days,
- Been instructed to self-isolate or self-monitor for 14 days,
- Cold or flu-like symptoms (cough, fever, runny nose, sore throat, weakness or headache),

Updated signage is available for facilities to print and post indicating these temporary measures to all visitors. Signs are available by referring to: <https://sharedhealthmb.ca/files/ltc-poster-letter-size.pdf>

In addition, a letter for family members or residents in long term care facilities is available here <https://sharedhealthmb.ca/files/covid-19-family-ltc.pdf> and in Word version by contacting your region's senior leadership.

For **Acute Care Facilities** across Manitoba, effective immediately, only **one visitor per patient** at a time is allowed.

For children, the exception is there could be up to two parents/guardians at a time. It does not mean that both parents/guardians can come in and bring an additional visitor. In families with only one parent/guardian, they may choose who the second designated support person will be.

Well visitors continue to be welcome at Acute Care sites, however will be subject to direct questions about symptoms, contacts and travel history upon arrival. All facilities are asked to consider changing or limiting visiting hours during this evolving situation.

The following individuals should **NOT** visit **Acute Care Facilities**. Those who have:

- Returned from international travel in the last 14 days,
- Been instructed to self-isolate or self-monitor for 14 days,
- Cold or flu-like symptoms (cough, fever, runny nose, sore throat, weakness or headache),

Visitors will always be treated with compassion and understanding, and there are special circumstances that will be accommodated. At the manager's discretion, exceptions will be provided to visitors requiring an escort or visiting an end of life patient. Please note parents/guardians of child patients are not considered visitors, so both parents/guardians may visit at the same time.

Visitor restrictions are in effect until further notice. Remember to wash your hands often, and stay informed of updates and all recommended precautions at <https://sharedhealthmb.ca/covid19/providers/>.