

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

Latest updates will appear in blue.

With the emergence of the Omicron variant of COVID-19, Occupational and Environmental Safety and Health and designates have updated screening protocols to reflect Federal guidance as follows:

Anyone who has traveled to the following countries: Botswana, Egypt, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, South Africa, Zimbabwe; **regardless of vaccination status** will be required to obtain, within 72 hours of departure, a valid negative COVID-19 molecular test in a third country before continuing their journey to Canada.

Upon arrival to Canada, **regardless of their vaccination status or having had a previous history of testing positive for COVID-19**, they will be subject to immediate arrival testing (day 1). All travelers will also be required to complete a test on day 8 after arrival AND quarantine for 14 days.

Travelers who are already in Canada from the Southern Africa region (countries listed above) are required to be tested and quarantine for the remainder of the 14 days from the date of entry into Canada.

Public Health Officials continue to require **all returning travelers who are not fully vaccinated (including those who have travelled within Canada)** to self-isolate and self-monitor for symptoms for 14 days following their return to Manitoba.

**Fully vaccinated individuals are those who have received both doses (any combination) of an approved two dose COVID-19 vaccine (AstraZeneca, Pfizer, Moderna), OR a single dose of an approved single dose COVID-19 vaccine (Janssen/Johnson & Johnson) with more than 14 days having passed since receiving the second dose.

The following guidelines for screening Manitoba Health care workers (including staff and physicians) **who are not fully vaccinated** remain in place.

Symptomatic Physicians and Staff

All symptomatic physicians and staff – regardless of vaccination status – who are returning from travel must immediately self-isolate and self-identify to their site Infection Prevention & Control Practitioner or designate during regular business hours. Community and administrative program staff should call 204-332-0176 during regular business hours. On weekends & stats, staff should call Provincial Occupational Health Covid-19 screening at 1-888-203-4066.

Asymptomatic health care workers

All asymptomatic physicians and staff who are returning from travel are required to follow the quarantine/self-isolation requirements in place and are directed to contact their manager,

supervisor or designate as needed. Fully vaccinated physicians and staff that meet travel exemptions for quarantine/self-isolation requirements, and who are asymptomatic, are not required to contact their site Infection Prevention & Control Practitioner or designate for occupational health screening prior to returning to their workplace.

Exceptions to self-isolation – Fully Vaccinated Health Care Workers

- Health care workers who choose to travel should **not travel** until at least 14 days have passed from when they received the second dose of COVID-19 vaccine;
- Health care workers should access and retain proof of full vaccination prior to travel;
- Upon return to Manitoba, fully vaccinated health care workers must continue to self-screen using existing screening tools;
- Fully vaccinated health care workers who have travelled and who are exempt from the requirement to self-isolate must pass self-screening for symptoms and exposures. Health care workers who meet all of these criteria are **not required** to contact their site Infection Prevention & Control Practitioner or designate for occupational health screening prior to returning to work;
- Fully vaccinated health care workers who have travelled outside of Canada for period less than 72 hours don't need to provide a pre-entry molecular test result upon re-entry to Canada;
- Fully vaccinated health care workers who have travelled and who are eligible for this exemption but who do not pass self-screening for symptoms and exposures **must** continue to contact their site Infection Prevention & Control Practitioner or designate for occupational health screening before returning to work.

Exceptions to self-isolation-Exception Requests and Detailed Risk Assessment

- The return to the workplace of any staff member who has travelled outside Manitoba and who is not fully vaccinated is not permitted without the approval of Occupational Health Services or designate following a detailed risk assessment.
- Under exceptional circumstances, when the staff person has unique skills that cannot be provided by any other providers which may create a patient safety risk, the manager can request an 'exception' to self-isolation. "Exception" requests to return staff to the workplace are limited to work situations where no alternative other than the return of the staff member exists to ensure for necessary, specialized and/ or time-sensitive work. All other available staffing processes must be considered prior to an exception request being initiated.
- If a manager believes that there is need for an "exception request", the manager must receive **approval from their Director**.
- The employee may not return to the workplace until Occupational Health Services has completed their detailed risk assessment and clears the staff member to return to work. Managers are reminded that all contact with staff returning from travel must be conducted via telephone or video-conference until Occupational Health Services has cleared the employee for work.
- Should the employee be deemed "operationally required" AND approved to work **following the staff health risk assessment** AND is asymptomatic, staff may return to work but must avoid contact with high risk patients. The employee will be required to self-monitor for symptoms, including monitoring their temperature twice a day and to wear a procedure/surgical mask for the duration of their shift and self-monitoring period.

* "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.)

- When masks are removed for breaks/eating staff should remain 6 feet from other people, follow social distancing guidelines and ensure hand hygiene is practiced.
- Masks should be changed when they become soiled or wet. When changing masks staff should remain 6 feet from other people, follow social distancing guidelines and ensure hand hygiene is practiced.
- 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>
- 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://sharedhealthmb.ca/files/routine-practices-protocol.pdf>
- Health care workers and physicians – regardless of vaccination status – who develop any symptoms must immediately remove themselves from work if any symptoms develop, self-isolate and notify Occupational Health Services. When not at work, they should self-isolate at home for the full 14-day period.
- Managers are reminded that all contact with staff returning from travel must be conducted via telephone or video-conference until those staff have been cleared for work by OESH.

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.

Communication

Health care workers are expected to communicate occupational health screening status and updates to supervisor/designate.

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>

Southern Health/Santé Sud

Sites: Infection Prevention & Control Practitioner or designate during regular business hours.

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