

# Is a COVID-19 Healthcare Associated Infection (HAI) a CRITICAL INCIDENT?

## A Guide to Determining if a COVID-19 HAI is a Critical Incident

***Before reporting a COVID-19 HAI to Manitoba Health review the legislated definition of a critical incident:***

An unintended event that occurs when health services are provided to an individual and results in a consequence to him or her that:

(a) is serious and undesired, such as death, disability, injury or harm, unplanned admission to hospital or unusual extension of a hospital stay

**AND**

(b) does not result from the individual's underlying health condition or from a risk inherent in providing the health services.

**NOTE: "COVID- 19 is now considered a risk inherent, when receiving healthcare services, due to the transmissibility and degree of community spread of the virus"**

***However, a critical incident may still be declared if there are circumstances such as system issues that were not mitigated to the greatest extent possible.***

Examples such as, but not limited to:

- Were there any systemic factors that decreased the likelihood the client/patient/resident would receive appropriate and timely support?
- Were there any identified known issues during an AGMP (such as lack of proper PPE, AGMP's occurring in a location without appropriate site ventilation system/HVAC) that may potentially contribute to large outbreaks of the virus to patients/clients/residents and employees?
- Were there any environmental factors if known that may have contributed to the spread of the virus that were contrary IP&C standards?
- Were there any systemic factors that decreased the likelihood of appropriate PPE usage or contributed to a lack of supplies?

If you answered **YES** to at least **ONE** of the above questions, the COVID-19 HAI is reportable and will be reviewed for potential designation as a critical incident.