



Regional Covid19 All-Staff Update

By Southern Health-Santé Sud
Jane Curtis – CEO
April 7, 2020

Hello I'm Jane Curtis, CEO of Southern Health-Santé Sud and this is the regional All-Staff Update released April 7, 2020

1. All staff is urged to remain informed.

Know that these Regional Covid19 Audio Updates are abridged and highlight only some of the most recent info.

It is critical that all staff remain informed on the most up-to-date protocols and info on Covid19 by visiting the

- [Southern Health-Santé Sud HPS](#), which also has a direct link available from our public website, southernhealth.ca. Please note, this does not require the use of passwords.
- Or, for additional provincial info, visit the [Shared Health](#) or [Province of MB Covid19](#) websites.

2. Clinical Response

- We continue to work closely with the Province to administer a coordinated, consistent response. Regional staff participate on provincial teleconferences which occur daily at various tables, after which we teleconference as a Regional Operating Centre to inform Calls to Action for our region. The challenge is in keeping with a fast paced, ever changing direction as we learn more about Covid19. As such, you may notice directives on the Shared Health site that are not yet operationalized in Southern Health-Santé Sud, however trust that work is underway to address these in a prioritized manner. We thank you for your flexibility and patience.
- We all have a duty to protect our patients, residents, clients and our colleagues and our community. It is extremely important to ensure that you stay home when sick, even if symptoms are mild. Please watch for the onset of fever, cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, runny nose in addition to other symptoms.

- You are asked to take your temperature before you are scheduled to work and to monitor signs and symptoms. You will undergo further screening at your respective site before you enter the health facility at the start your shift. Please allow time for this prior to your shift. [Posters](#) in your screening areas will provide further context.
 - Shared Health has released updated information on the implementation of Universal Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) within various health care settings. Southern Health-Santé Sud in coordination with all regional health authorities across the province are implementing Universal PPE in a phased approach. As a first step, implementation of Universal PPE in Hospitals, Personal Care Homes and Transitional Care involves eye protection and procedure masks for providers involved in direct patient and resident care.
 - We are now collecting gently used N95 masks for potential reuse following sterilization processes. Watch for relevant posters and collection receptacles.
 - Three Drive-Thru Community Testing Sites continue to be operational in Steinbach, Winkler and Portage la Prairie. Asymptomatic Patients should NOT be sent for testing at COVID-19 Community Testing Sites, which are reserved for those who have undergone preliminary screening criteria and require supplement clinical judgement.
 - Provincial protocols continue to evolve as developments present related to Covid19. Changes have been made to the Universal Newborn Hearing Screening program. There is also a Guidance and Screening Tool for management re. home visits. Provincial protocols, guidelines and algorithms were released and/or updated for many surgical and other specialties, Emergency Department screening, anaesthesia, critical care, advice for the management of obstetrical patients, as well as administering medications via inhalations in Acute Care, Long Term Care and Community. Please visit the HPS or the Shared Health website for further guidance.
- 3. And Finally... yes while we all share this focus for patients, residents, clients and the community: we want to support you to remain healthy and well ...**
- The [Wellness Support Line](#) is a confidential phone number you can call to debrief and decompress with professionals outside your normal support network and workplace. Please visit southernhealth.ca and click the link on the home page.
 - [Connect Now](#) is a new real-time support line that employees can call to instantly connect with a mental health professional from our Employee Assistance Program. Connect Now is supplemental to the usual [Employee Assistance Program](#) coverage which is also available to you.

- Your input is valuable. If you have any concerns, questions or suggestions, please reach out to your Manager – it's important that you do. Your supervisor will do their best to communicate through our regular channels and vet through to our Regional Operations Centre.
- *Again, we need more than ever to pull together, stay together, and work together for the health and wellbeing of the people in our communities – and each other. We need more than ever to support each other today, so we can get through this together and towards a healthier tomorrow.*

Thank you Everyone.