

## MEMO

**Date:** October 16, 2021  
**To:** Educational Institutions – Faculties of Health Sciences  
**From:** Lanette Siragusa, Chief Nursing Officer, Shared Health  
**Re:** **COVID-19 Vaccination Status – Students/Clinical Placements**

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### **Important Information for Educational Institutions and Clinical Placement Students**

Effective October 18, 2021, in order to be at work, all direct care workers are required to have provided proof of full COVID-19 vaccination or to participate in regular COVID-19 rapid testing. **This includes students participating in clinical placements where they have direct contact with patients, residents or clients.**

While vaccination against COVID-19 remains the preference due to its known benefits, we have identified regular rapid testing as a reasonable accommodation for those who are not vaccinated or who do not wish to disclose their vaccination status.

Please note that in certain areas, rapid COVID-19 testing may not be accepted as an alternative to proof of full vaccination. **To protect our most vulnerable patients, residents and clients, Manitoba's health service delivery organizations retain the right to restrict access to certain clinical spaces for students who have not provided proof of vaccination. In these areas, which will be identified by the facility/site, students who are not fully vaccinated may not be permitted to provide direct care in certain clinical areas.**

Additional information on Rapid COVID-19 Testing for Direct Care Workers is available [here](#).

For students who require regular rapid COVID-19 testing, it will be available and must be performed in the workplace. Students may access their regular COVID-19 rapid testing at the site/facility in which they are completing their clinical placement.

Educational institutions are asked to check their students' vaccination status in advance of any visits to a health care setting. Keep in mind that negative test results are valid for a maximum of 48 hours and it is the responsibility of the student and their educational institution to monitor the time that has passed since the last test and ensure that students maintain a current, valid negative test result.

**Students who require testing** – and who are permitted to work in a clinical area with proof of regular COVID-19 rapid testing – are required to maintain a testing log. This log may be requested by educational institutions or the site/facility at any time. A log is available [here](#).

Please be aware that Shared Health and the regional health authorities assume no responsibility or liability for your students' verification of vaccination status or validation of proof. **Educational Institutions please note: you are responsible for ensuring compliance with these requirements.**