

COVID-19

Provincial Guidance for Pregnant Health Care Workers

Manitoba's Health System is committed to ensuring the safety and health of all health care workers. This includes a requirement of strict compliance with policies, protocols and procedures issued by Manitoba Health, Seniors and Active Living, the Public Health Agency of Canada and including in provincial Workplace Safety and Health legislation and regulation.

Current evidence supports that pregnant health care staff that are fundamental and necessary to service provision may continue to work during the COVID-19 pandemic with appropriate precautions.

The Workplace Safety and Health Branch of the Province of Manitoba has confirmed that Manitoba's Infection Prevention & Control Guidelines and Protocols for *Enhanced Droplet/Contact Precautions, which follow Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) guidelines, are appropriate.

In situations where a pregnant health care worker may be exposed to a person who is confirmed or suspected to have COVID-19, appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) as identified by Infection Prevention and Control should continue to be used. Additional PPE measures are not required.

Where staffing allows, unnecessary exposure to patients with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 may follow the regular accommodation process and be considered on a case by case basis.

It is recognized that each woman's circumstances are different. Pregnancy history, health status and risk of exposure in the workplace will all influence level of risk. If you are a pregnant health care worker, please consult your health care provider and the occupational health and safety department in your workplace to determine if a request for accommodation is required.

If you have other questions related to pregnancy and COVID-19 please ensure that you consult your healthcare provider.

*Also referred to in rural and northern health regions as Droplet/Contact precautions with airborne precautions for aerosol-generating medical procedures.