

## MEMO

**Date:** March 31, 2020

**To:**

**From:** **Dr. Brent Roussin**  
Chief Provincial Public Health Officer  
**Lanette Siragusa, Provincial Lead**  
Health System Integration & Quality,  
Chief Nursing Officer, Shared Health

**Re:** **COVID-19 Testing Criteria and In-Home Care**

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Three new categories were added to COVID-19 testing criteria last week, including:

- any health care worker with respiratory symptoms;
- any employee or resident who lives, or works, in a remote or isolated community with respiratory symptoms;
- anyone who works or lives in a correctional facility, shelter, long term care or residential care facility with respiratory symptoms.

We know this has resulted in some confusion and we hope the following information provides additional clarity and understanding to support ongoing use of the guiding document and screening tool for the management of home visits, available here:

<https://sharedhealthmb.ca/files/covid-19-guidance-and-screening-tool-for-management-of-home-visits.pdf> .

We have consulted with Public Health and with Infection, Prevention and Control and can confirm the following:

The expanded criteria do not indicate any additional risk of exposure for these groups. These testing categories were added because there is a greater risk of the virus spreading in settings that have close quarters or where multiple people work or live.

Criteria for testing and screening will continue to change as Manitoba's response to COVID-19 evolves. We will make every effort to continue to communicate changes and the rationale behind them as they are confirmed.