



Regional Covid19 All-Staff Update

By Southern Health-Santé Sud

Jane Curtis – CEO

April 15, 2020

Hello, I'm Jane Curtis, CEO of Southern Health-Santé Sud, and this is the regional All-Staff Update for April 15, 2020.

Stay Informed

A reminder that these Regional Audio Updates are abridged and highlight only some of the most recent information.

It is critical that all staff remain informed 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.

Clinical Response

- We continue to work closely with the province to ensure a coordinated and consistent approach. . Again, you may notice that some directives on the Shared Health website have not yet been operationalized in Southern Health-Santé Sud. Know that many staff are working on addressing these in a prioritized manner while adapting to a rapidly changing environment.

- We all have a duty to protect our patients, residents, clients, colleagues and our community. It is extremely important to ensure that you stay home when you are 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. Further to this...
 - Effective April 11, all health care workers (staff and physicians) and first responders who become symptomatic may self-refer to a testing site for COVID-19 without calling OESH or Health Links-Info Santé in advance and be tested, provided they meet the screening criteria.

- New guidelines for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) are under review provincially. Southern Health-Santé Sud is implementing universal PPE within a phased approach in coordination with the provincial plan. Universal PPE for staff providing direct patient and resident care in acute care, personal care homes and transitional centres includes masks and eye protection. Planning is ongoing and details regarding further implementation will be communicated once established.

- Alternate isolation accommodations are now available in a location in Winnipeg. These are meant to reduce the spread of COVID-19 by providing a safe isolation for staff and members of public who have either tested positive or been identified as a close contact of a positive case and do not have an acceptable location to complete self-isolation. Public Health and Infection Prevention & Control will be actively offering this accommodation option to anyone who meets the established criteria.

- We have implemented a new process for sharing *Well Wishes* with patients and residents who are in facility. Family and friends are now able to complete an online form and submit a brief message extending well wishes to a loved one or friend. Visit southernhealth.ca and click on the link on the home page to access the online form.
- As always, I encourage you to reach out to your Manager with any concerns, questions or suggestions you may have. It is imperative that we hear from you. Your supervisor will do their best to communicate through our regular channels and direct any issues to our Regional Operations Centre.

During this time of uncertainty, many of us are left feeling anxious and overwhelmed by all the change. Last week I spoke about the Wellness Support Line and Connect Now programs to support staff during this challenging time and I encourage you to reach out to these supports. More information is available on our website.

In times like these it is sometimes helpful to hear of the many good things that are happening around us. With that said, I am pleased to share some of the stories that have lifted my spirits over the past week. By sharing these stories I hope that you too will feel uplifted and encouraged to share.

- A colleague of mine recently shared a YouTube video of a Choir of Women Physicians in Toronto singing, “Rise Again.” This inspiring video reminded me that we are all in this together. We will weather this storm, and we will rise again. I encourage you to search “Choir of Women Physicians sings, ‘Rise Again,’” on YouTube. Click [HERE](#) to access.

- Another moment was receiving a picture of staff from the Altona Community Memorial Health Centre who had superimposed smiles on the outside of their masks. The photo will be included in my script version in the hopes that it will bring a smile to your face as well.



Source: Marlo Friesen, Director of Health Services – Altona, Emerson & Area; verbal consent to share this photo was provided by all staff in this photo.

- I know that there are similar feel good stories and pictures across the region and I welcome and encourage you to share them with your Managers and these will be vetted to me stories remind us that we are all in this together. .

Once again - thank you to everyone for everything you are doing to assist with the pandemic response in our region, as well as your own personal efforts to keep us all safe.