

April 19, 2021

### **Attention: Families and Support Persons of Residents of Licensed Personal Care Homes**

Across Manitoba, personal care homes and other long-term care facilities have taken every possible step to decrease the risk of COVID-19 within our facilities. This has included strict infection and control precautions, enhanced cleaning protocols, visitor restrictions, daily screening of staff before shift and the introduction of personal protective equipment. **These efforts continue at all facilities.**

For the safety of your loved ones, and at the requirement of public health officials, a single-site staffing model for nursing and support staff working in licensed personal care homes was implemented in May 2020. This limited the number of licensed personal care homes that nursing and support staff work in to one.

In recent months, Manitoba's **COVID-19 immunization program** has prioritized Personal Care Home residents and employees for access to the vaccine. With most PCH residents now vaccinated and all staff eligible to receive the vaccine, personal care homes may begin considering exemptions to the Single Site Staffing Order.

Families and residents can be assured that the exemption process will be very carefully managed. Only those staff who have acquired protection from the virus will be approved for the exemption and facilities will continue to support the option for staff to work in a single site wherever possible.

Eligible staff are those who have been immunized with at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. Immunized staff must have received the vaccine dose more than 14 days prior to the exemption being granted). Staff must also provide proof of immunization and will be required to provide proof of receiving the second dose.

We understand you may have questions about other changes that may occur as more Manitobans are vaccinated. At this time, all other preventative measures remain in place. Visitor restrictions continue to be reviewed, with the latest information available at:

<https://sharedhealthmb.ca/files/covid-19-pch-visitation-principles.pdf>