



MISERICORDIA
Health Centre
The future of care

July 9, 2020

Hello everyone,

Hoping you are all well and enjoying the warmer weather. It's been wonderful for family visits and spending time in our gardens. A few updates for you ...

VISITS

We have both outdoor and indoor spaces available for family/friends visits. If you choose to visit inside, masks are required and will be provided to you.

HOW TO WEAR A NON-MEDICAL MASK SAFELY

Did you know that you shouldn't ever touch a mask while you are wearing it? I'm attaching an excellent reference poster to this letter: the poster clearly demonstrates how to safely use a non-medical mask or face covering – whether here at Misericordia when visiting or anywhere in the community.

SUMMER TRAVEL

We know many of you are travelling this summer. A reminder that, depending on your destination, this may affect your ability to visit MHC upon your return.

Please visit the province of Manitoba website for the most current information:
gov.mb.ca/covid19/infomanitobans/index.html

As of today:

Anyone arriving in Manitoba is required to self-isolate for 14-days upon arrival to reduce the spread of COVID-19 with a few exceptions.

Manitoba residents who have travelled to western Canada or northwestern Ontario** are exempt if they have not travelled outside of western Canada or northwestern Ontario and are not displaying any symptoms of COVID-19. Residents of western Canada or northwestern Ontario are also exempt, if they have not travelled to another country or any part of Canada outside of western Canada or northwestern Ontario in the 14-day period immediately before entering or arriving in Manitoba and are not displaying any symptoms of COVID-19.*

*Western Canada means British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

**northwestern Ontario means that portion of Ontario that is located west of Terrace Bay

STAFF SCREENING

Beginning this week, Shared Health is moving to a “screening from home” model for staff in which staff will use an online tool to self-screen and sign a declaration to self-screen before coming to work. This will make entry into our facility more efficient. Please be assured that staff are fully aware they should NOT report to work if they are feeling unwell. Staff in all areas of MHC will be audited weekly to ensure compliance.

Family/visitors/patients screening remains status quo: there is no change to this screening process. A reminder to Misericordia Place visitors to present at the overpass for screening before coming to Misericordia Place to visit.

OPPORTUNITY TO PROVIDE FEEDBACK ON PROPOSED PCH VISITATION SHELTERS

The province of Manitoba is inviting public feedback on proposed personal care home visitation shelters. The purpose of the shelters is to support the quality of life for residents by ensuring meaningful connections continue between residents of Manitoba’s personal care homes and their visitors.

The province is asking for feedback on design requirements related to physical distancing protocols, personal protective equipment, frequency of use and ways to support quality visits. Please take the survey here: engagemb.ca/visitation-shelters

STAFF PROFILE: Saada Awad

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Misericordia has been sharing staff profiles: health-care heroes on the front lines. This week, read about a member of Misericordia Place, Saada Awad. See next page for Saada’s profile.

As always, please let me know if you have any questions or if I can help with anything: feedback is appreciated.

Yours sincerely,



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STAFF PROFILE: Saada Awad, Misericordia Place



“The one thing I really don’t like about the PPE is that I can’t share my smiles,” laments Saada Awad, a health-care aide at Misericordia Place, pointing to her mask.

Saada understands the importance of wearing Personal Protective Equipment, a crucial COVID-19 precaution, but spends much of her day explaining to residents why she is wearing it.

“They keeping asking me if I’m sick,” she says, “I explain I’m wearing it to protect them. Many residents forget and I have to explain again.”

Saada is also finding it tough not being able to hug the residents she cares for: “I now touch their arms, rather than hugging.”

A new aspect of Saada’s position is helping residents with FaceTime, an activity she finds very rewarding.

“I felt so bad residents couldn’t have visitors, keeping in touch is so important.”

She’s extremely happy families are now allowed to visit in person with residents again, for everyone’s sake.

“The residents are very excited about the visits,” she says, “When you say family is coming, they really perk up.”

COVID-19 has also brought “single-site staffing” to all personal care homes in Manitoba, meaning staff can only work at one personal care home so as to reduce the risk of spreading the virus. Saada thinks this was an excellent development as “it’s much safer for our residents, and my co-workers.”

If there is a silver lining to COVID-19, it’s that it has brought Saada’s children all under one roof again. “My daughter is studying at U of M and has now come back home to live. I’m very happy we’re all together.”

Read more #healthcareheroesMB at [misericordia.mb.ca/news/health-stories](https://www.misericordia.mb.ca/news/health-stories)

Keep COVID-19 informed by visiting: [covid19manitoba.ca](https://www.covid19manitoba.ca)



HOW TO SAFELY USE A NON-MEDICAL MASK OR FACE COVERING

DO'S

- **DO** wear a non-medical mask or face covering to **protect others**.
- **DO** wash your hands or use alcohol-based hand sanitizer before and after touching mask or face covering.
- **DO** use the ear loops or ties to put on and remove mask.
- **DO** ensure your nose and mouth are fully covered
- **DO** wash your mask with hot, soapy water and let it dry completely before wearing it again.
- **DO** store re-usable mask in a clean paper bag until you wear it again.
- **DO** discard mask that cannot be washed in a plastic lined garbage bin after use.

DON'TS

- **DON'T** reuse masks that are moist, dirty or damaged.
- **DON'T** wear a loose mask.
- **DON'T** touch mask while wearing it.
- **DON'T** remove mask to talk to someone.
- **DON'T** hang mask from your neck or ears.
- **DON'T** wear mask under your chin.
- **DON'T** share your mask.
- **DON'T** leave your used mask within the reach of others.

NON-MEDICAL MASKS ARE NOT RECOMMENDED FOR:

- people who suffer from an illness or disability that makes it difficult to put on or take off a mask
- those who have difficulty breathing
- children under the age of 2 years

DON'T JUDGE OTHERS FOR NOT WEARING A MASK.

Kindness is important as some people may not be able to wear a mask or face covering.