

MEMO

Date: February 2, 2022
To: **IP&C Leads, Long Term Care Leads –
Manitoba Health Service Delivery
Organizations**
From: Provincial COVID-19 Incident Command
Subject: **Outbreak Declaration in Long-Term Care**

With widespread transmission of COVID-19 currently occurring in the community, the risk of outbreaks in health-care facilities is high.

All facilities are taking precautions to minimize the spread of the virus, however the infectiousness of the Omicron variant has led to an increase in the number of COVID-19 positive residents within personal care homes.

To ensure consistency in the management of COVID-19 in Manitoba long-term care facilities and to ensure we are supporting the new outbreak management guidelines to maximize capacity, Infection Prevention and Control staff will work directly with the facility to review and declare COVID-19 outbreaks, at both the site – and now also the unit – level.

While this is the practice throughout rural and northern personal care homes, and across acute care throughout the province, it will mark a slight change in approach for personal care homes located within the Winnipeg Health Region and the Selkirk Mental Health Centre.

The involvement of IP&C staff in the declaration of PCH outbreaks will occur as follows:

- Regional IP&C staff will continue working with individual PCH operators to identify and declare outbreaks at the site level.
- Regional IP&C staff will continue to support assessment in all health regions to determine the scale of outbreaks on a unit by unit basis.
- IP&C will review the number of cases within an individual unit or across multiple units, as well as the work patterns/travel of staff within the facility.
- Following review, IP&C will determine whether the outbreak is to be declared as facility-wide OR limited to a specific unit(s).

We understand this will be a slight change in practice. IP&C and Long-Term Care leads are available to respond to questions you may have.

Thank you for your ongoing work to keep our residents safe.