



Memo from Chief of Staff and President/CEO to ALL Staff

Date: **UPDATED March 19, 2020**

There have been a number of questions in recent days about travel given the spread of COVID-19 and also changing Provincial direction on this issue.

As we previously stated our goal is to minimize potential risk to our patients and fellow staff members and to operate with an abundance of caution. It is difficult to be crystal-clear when there is so much changing. However, it is important for you to know what our position is at this time.

Non-essential travel outside of Canada has been prohibited by the Government of Canada.

ALL staff (employees and professional staff) who travel outside of Canada at any point MUST **self-isolate** on their return for at least 14 days **from their return date** to Canada. This does apply to any travel outside of Canada even “day trips” or working back and forth across the border.

There is an **exception** for “critical” workers. At this point, due to the provincial state of emergency, vacation schedules and being a border City, Windsor Regional Hospital is deeming all employees and professional staff “critical”.

The memo of the Provincial Medical Officer of Health states:

“I am recommending that Health Care Workers who have travelled outside of Canada within the last 14 days self-isolate for a period of 14 days starting from their arrival in Ontario. Health Care Workers should not attend work if they are sick. If there are particular workers who are deemed critical, by all parties, to continued operations, I recommend that these workers undergo regular screening, use appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for the 14 days and undertake active self-monitoring, including taking their temperature twice daily to monitor for fever, and immediately self-isolate if symptoms develop and self-identify to their occupational health and safety department.”



As a result, after discussing with Joint Occupational Health and Safety and Unions Executives we will be allowing any staff to return to work if they:

1. Register with Employee Health identifying they are returning to work and sharing details of their return date to Canada;
2. Undergo screening at entry with all other staff; and
3. Actively self-monitor twice day (which includes taking temperature twice a day). Any signs of fever, cough, shortness of breath, or difficulty breathing they must remove themselves from the workplace and immediately contact Employee health.

Most importantly, since they would be non-symptomatic, “critical” staff that are returning during this 14-day period need to wear a surgical mask at ALL times when in or around a WRH building. If this surgical mask is removed the staff will be asked to leave and not return until their full 14 day self-isolation period is over.

See memo from Provincial Medical Officer of Health

[https://www.wrh.on.ca/uploads/Coronavirus/MOH MEMO Health Worker Illness Return to Work 03 19 2020.pdf](https://www.wrh.on.ca/uploads/Coronavirus/MOH_MEMO_Health_Worker_Illness_Return_to_Work_03_19_2020.pdf)

The following is a link to a document showing what “self-isolate” means

<https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/documents/ncov/factsheet-covid-19-how-to-self-isolate.pdf>

The following is a list of Employee Health Nurses numbers to call:

- Monday to Friday 8 am to 4 pm: 519-254-5577 Extension 52588 or 32525
- After hours: (519) 995-1854 or (519) 995-0324

