

From: Isaac, Nikki (EDT) <[Nikki.Isaac@gov.mb.ca](mailto:Nikki.Isaac@gov.mb.ca)>

Date: Thu, Sep 17, 2020 at 8:12 AM

Subject: RE: Readiness Plans to Welcome International Education

Hello, Please be advised that there are some changes to the following paragraphs (see green highlights). I have incorporated the changes to the body of the initial referral information below.

As you are revising your plans, please be sure to incorporate. Kind regards. Nikki

## Overall requirement #4: Case Management and Outbreak Response

Manitoba Public Health also advised that institutions need to have a plan in place to manage if a student or the co-arriving family member of a student tests positive in the 14-day quarantine period. **Please adapt the following wording to be specific to your institution:**

- A student that is quarantining alone and who tests positive for COVID-19 during the 14-day quarantine period will need to self-isolate, unless they require medical attention and/or hospitalization. Please refer to **[insert health care insurance plan information]** for eligible expenses. Any student or co-arriving immediate family member that tests positive can expect to be contacted by Manitoba public health officials and will be required to follow all further measures as set out by the public health official, which may include self-isolating beyond the **initial** 14-day quarantine period.
- If a student tests positive for COVID-19 while quarantining with an immediate family member(s), the student will be separated from the family member(s) and will need to self-isolate, **likely beyond the student's 14-day quarantine period.** The family member(s) will need to move to another guestroom and will be monitored for symptoms of COVID-19 during wellness check-ins by **[indicate who at the institution is doing wellness checks]**. Family member(s) who had been quarantining with a student that tests positive for COVID-19 should expect to be contacted by Manitoba public health officials and will be considered a close contact to this case, and may need to continue to quarantine beyond the 14-day quarantine period.
- If a co-arriving immediate family member tests positive for COVID-19 while quarantining with a student, the family member (s) will be separated from the student and need to self-isolate, likely beyond the family

member(s) **initial** 14-day quarantine period. The student will need to move into another guestroom, and will be monitored for symptoms of COVID-19 during wellness check-ins by **[indicate who at institution is doing wellness checks]**. The student should expect to be contacted by Manitoba public health officials and will be considered a close contact to the case, and may need to continue to quarantine beyond the **initial** 14-day quarantine period.

- The unexpected guestroom and meal costs due to the student or family member(s) testing positive for COVID-19 will be **[the students' responsibility or some other arrangement]**.

- **Manitoba public health will contact all cases and contacts daily and perform active daily monitoring on cases and contacts for the duration self isolation and will advise each when that requirement ends.**

Nikki Isaac  
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**From:** Isaac, Nikki (EDT)  
**Sent:** September 11, 2020 11:13 AM  
**Subject:** Readiness Plans to Welcome International Education

Good morning,

Thanks for all of the work that you have been doing to prepare readiness plans to welcome international students.

In advance of our meeting next Tuesday (3 – 4:30), we wanted to share this reference information with you. This work includes an iterative review and revision process, and as we continue to receive submissions from you, we have been documenting important messaging and feedback from our colleagues in Manitoba Public Health and the Public Health Agency of Canada, in addition to our own analysis and comments.

The information in this email is long; it includes sample wording, tips, links and information that will hopefully help expedite our review and approval processes. We provide information and comments on each of the federal requirements for you to include in your plans. We will continue to reach out individually to provide support and specific advice and feedback for your plans.

Prior to re-submitting the next version of your plan, we would ask that you review this reference information to ensure you have covered off the federal and provincial requirements in your documents. Please feel free to share this information with relevant contacts in your institution.

We can discuss this reference information on next week's teleconference, as well as current status and next steps respecting this work. I am looking forward to our next teleconference; here is the meeting teleconference information:

Tuesday, September 15  
3:00 pm – 4:30 pm

**Dial In: 1-855-219-6965**  
**Participant code: 682119174 and press #**

Kind thanks,  
Nikki

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Reference for Institutions to Prepare and Submit Readiness Plans to Welcome  
International Students

## **Introduction:**

This reference information includes feedback from Manitoba public health officials, and the Public Health Agency of Canada.

It is intended to support institutions in preparing a package of information that can be assessed to meet federal and provincial requirements. Please ensure your submission

to Economic Development and Training includes the information detailed below, as this will help obtain approval from Manitoba public health officials.

Wherever possible, please add the information to your current plans, rather than sending separate letters or emails of response.

Please note that this Quick Guide does not provide a comprehensive list of all information that may be required for approvals. Rather, this Guide provides advice on items that have been noted to be missing from institutional plans that have been reviewed.

As new information about the COVID-19 pandemic is available, and this is a dynamic issue, this information is subject to change at any time. Economic Development and Training will continue to advise institutions of any changes.

- **The information in this Quick Reference is accurate as of September 11, 2020, and is subject to change.**
- **Additional information or changes may be requested.**

## **REFERENCE INFORMATION:**

### **Overall requirement #1: Province provided federal Guidance document:**

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- You may want to note in your plan/package that the Manitoba government provided you with Canada's Guidance for post-secondary institutions during the COVID-19 pandemic, at <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/guidance-documents/covid-19-guidance-post-secondary-institutions-during-pandemic.html>

### **Overall requirement #2: Approval mechanism:**

- You may want to note in your plan/package that the Manitoba government has established a mechanism to approve this plan to welcome international students to the university for Fall 2020.
- You may want to note in your plan/package that your institution has an ongoing dialogue with the Department of Economic Development and Training in order to ensure that the plan continues to meet requirements and to verify your ongoing adherence to federal requirements.

### **Overall requirement #3: Health system capacity for outbreak response:**

- You may want to note in your plan/package that the Manitoba government has implemented a new pandemic response tool that uses the **colours** green, yellow, orange and red. At each level, public health officials have a range of restrictions that could be imposed on different sectors, including at post-secondary institutions.
- The province will update the provincial response level in response to the spread of the virus and other public health indicators. Information on Manitoba's Pandemic Response System is available at <https://www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/restartmb/prs/system/index.html>
- Manitoba Public Health also noted that the health system capacity and readiness for outbreak response would depend on the number of international students that coming to Manitoba and current cases.

**In addition to institutions' readiness plan for international students, institutions should also include in their packages to Manitoba their restart/reopening plans to meet Overall requirements #4 – 8, and Post-quarantine requirements # 1- 2.**

### **Overall requirement #4: Case Management and Outbreak Response**

- Manitoba Public Health officials are responsible for overall public health outbreak responses and case management in Manitoba. The intent of this requirement is for institutions to provide information on the plans and protocols that institutions have in place to support those processes.
- Manitoba Public Health indicated that institutions' case management / outbreak response processes where institutions are requesting personal health information are inconsistent with processes Manitoba Public Health has in place respecting positive case identification, contact tracing, and contacting places of business, schools, or other locations. Requiring disclosure of personal health information is also inconsistent with protection and privacy of personal health information legislation.
- To prevent concerns being flagged by Manitoba Public Health in approving your plans, we are asking institutions to ensure their plans outline processes that respect the privacy and protection of personal health information, and do not compel individuals to provide personal health information to an organization.

- Students/staff may be required to advise the institution about missing classes/work, but it should be noted that local public health officials will reach out to institutions if they determine it is needed, rather than the student/staff being required to disclose their personal health status to the institution.

- **Here is sample wording you can adapt specific to your institution:**

- Manitoba public health officials will contact the institution if needed.
- If a community member (student/staff/faculty) becomes symptomatic:
  - They should seek medical advice and information about COVID-19 testing.
  - They must complete the self-screening tool from Shared Health and / or call Health Links-Info Santé in Winnipeg at 204-788-8667, toll-free elsewhere in Manitoba at 1-888-315-9257.
  - If individuals are experiencing severe symptoms or difficulty breathing, they should call 911.
  - Based on test results, local public health officials will advise the individual what actions should be taken. For example, if COVID-19 test results are negative, they may be advised to self-isolate for 14 days, or until symptoms have resolved for 24 hours.
  - When a case of COVID-19 is confirmed, local public health officials will lead the response.
  - The local public health authority will advise the institution if a confirmed case of COVID-19 was present on campus during the person in question's infectious period, and assess the need for the institution or part of the institution to be closed for a period of time, and provide any other further direction.
  - Local public health authorities will identify close contacts of a positive case and contact those individuals who may have been exposed.
  - Institutions may be advised to close off areas used by the infected person and not use these areas until after cleaning and disinfecting is completed.
  - If there was no significant exposure on campus, the institution will not be notified.

- **September 17, 2020 Update:** Manitoba Public Health also advised that institutions need to have a plan in place to manage if a student or the co-arriving family member of a student tests positive in the 14-day quarantine period. **Please adapt the following wording to be specific to your institution:**

- A student that is quarantining alone and who tests positive for COVID-19 during the 14-day quarantine period will need to self-isolate, unless they require medical attention and/or hospitalization. Please refer to [insert health care insurance plan information] for eligible expenses. Any student or co-arriving immediate family member that tests positive can expect to be contacted by Manitoba public health officials and will be required to follow all further measures as set out by the public health official, which may include self-isolating beyond the initial 14-day quarantine period.
- If a student tests positive for COVID-19 while quarantining with an immediate family member(s), the student will be separated from the family member(s) and will need to self-isolate, likely beyond the student's 14-day quarantine period. The family member(s) will need to move to another guestroom and will be monitored for symptoms of COVID-19 during wellness check-ins by [indicate who at the institution is doing wellness checks]. Family member(s) who had been quarantining with a student that tests positive for COVID-19 should expect to be contacted by Manitoba public health officials and will be considered a close contact to this case, and may need to continue to quarantine beyond the 14-day quarantine period.
- If a co-arriving immediate family member tests positive for COVID-19 while quarantining with a student, the family member (s) will be separated from the student and need to self-isolate, likely beyond the family member(s) initial 14-day quarantine period. The student will need to move into another guestroom, and will be monitored for symptoms of COVID-19 during wellness check-ins by [indicate who at institution is doing wellness checks]. The student should expect to be contacted by Manitoba public health officials and will be considered a close contact to the case, and may need to continue to quarantine beyond the initial 14-day quarantine period.
- The unexpected guestroom and meal costs due to the student or family member(s) testing positive for COVID-19 will be [the students' responsibility] or [some other arrangement].
- Manitoba public health will contact all cases and contacts daily and perform active daily monitoring on cases and contacts for the duration self isolation and will advise each when that requirement ends.

## Overall requirement #5: Notification on compliance with quarantine and cases

- Include a statement in your plans/packages that any non-compliance with the 14-day mandatory quarantine under the federal Quarantine Act means that students may be subject to [fines and penalties established by the government of Canada](#) and government of Manitoba, and could result in reporting of quarantine breaches to the Canadian Border Services Agency.
- Additional information from the Public Health Agency of Canada to include in your plan:
  - If there is a violation of the quarantine requirements, indicate the kinds of supports / steps your institution would take to help remove the barriers, prior to enforcement and compliance action being taken.
  - At the federal level, RCMP and local and provincial police can ticket travellers who break quarantine under the Contraventions Act, or charges can be laid against a traveller for breaking quarantine under the Quarantine Act, which can result in penalties of up to \$750,000 or up to 6 months in jail, or both.
  - Institutions need to establish a reporting process to notify RCMP and / or local police if there is a violation of the quarantine requirements.

## Overall requirement #6: Public communications protocols

- Manitoba and local public health officials have established public communications protocols for COVID-19 outbreaks (i.e., when to issue public notification and with what level of detail). They will be responsible for notifying the community, and, as needed will work with institutions on any public communication. Institutions are being asked to follow the advice and lead of provincial and local public health officials in issuing any public communications.
- To help illustrate the process that will be used for post-secondary institutions, please see the sample case management and outbreak response information / Process for COVID-19 Response Management in K-12 Schools and Early Learning and Child Care Centres.
  - [https://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/covid/docs/covid\\_response\\_k-12\\_schools.pdf](https://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/covid/docs/covid_response_k-12_schools.pdf)
  - [https://manitoba.ca/asset\\_library/en/covid/K12ResponseManagement.pdf](https://manitoba.ca/asset_library/en/covid/K12ResponseManagement.pdf)



- **Please include wording in your plan, such as:**
  - The communication notifying the community will be done following the lead of local and provincial public health officials.

## **Overall requirements #7 and #8: Restart plans, Mechanisms to approve and verify continued adherence to requirements / maintaining the requirements:**

**(as above, Overall requirement #2)**

- Include overall information on steps you are taking to prevent the spread of infection, for example provide information included on your websites to detail in your plan any policies, procedures, and practices you are implementing, e.g., additional cleaning protocols, social distancing requirements, mask requirements, etc. etc.
- You may note in your plan that the province of Manitoba has established a mechanism to approve your plans, and that your organization will have an ongoing dialogue with the Department of Economic Development and Training to continue to meet requirements and verify ongoing adherence to the federal requirements.

## **Pre-arrival requirements #1 and # 2: Pre-arrival requirements are communicated to international students and their co-arriving immediate family members, and Download ArriveCAN**

- This requirement is to ensure institutions have provided the necessary information to their international students prior to students' arrival.
- Please ensure the following information is included in your information package:
  - Information on current travel restrictions and exemptions, [documents needed](#), accommodation information for on-campus and off-campus quarantine, transportation services, and [government of Canada's mandatory 14-day quarantine requirements](#).

- A statement to indicate that it is best practice for students to [download the ArriveCAN app](#) to their mobile phone and enter their personal information up to 48 hours before arriving in Canada, and continue to use it to monitor symptoms for the duration of the quarantine period. This will help speed up the student's arrival through Immigration Canada at the port of entry, meaning the student will spend less time with border and health officers.

## Pre-arrival requirement #3: Safe Transportation

- These requirements are to ensure institutions share safe transportation information with students. Institutions are asked to adapt the advice below for transportation and vehicles from the Manitoba government in their readiness plan.
  - Manitoba Public Health indicated that **only one student can be in a hotel shuttle / private vehicle from the airport to the hotel and those students must quarantine alone**. The only exception is if the students have co-arriving immediate family members (where they resided together) and for homestay placements, as long as precautions are all in place.
- To assist you in planning and providing this detail, you may want to adapt the advice for transportation and vehicles for hire in your plan for safe transportation from the airport to the place of quarantine, provided below and found at this link: <https://www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/restoring/transportation.html>:

### Transportation Advice:

- Use of taxis or hotel shuttles by returning travelers who are not experiencing symptoms (e.g., cough, fever, sore throat, runny nose) of a respiratory illness is NOT recommended.
- However, if you do not have access to a private vehicle, this could be considered provided you follow all requirements as outlined under the advice for vehicles for hire (e.g., taxi drivers) and their passengers, **specifically the requirement related to transporting one fare at a time (e.g. people from the same household)**.

### Advice for vehicle for hire (e.g. taxi drivers, Handi-Transit) and their passengers:

- Screen all passengers for symptoms of COVID-19 or exposures prior to entering the vehicle. Passengers experiencing symptoms of a respiratory illness (e.g., cough, fever, sore throat, runny nose) that do not have access to a private vehicle, are advised to call Health Links - Info Santé to assist with developing a plan to get to a health facility.

Drivers should do the following:

- Ensure you self-monitor yourself for symptoms before starting your shift
- Consult Transport Canada's guidelines when **considering a physical barrier between the driver and passengers. As an alternative to installing a physical barrier, leave the passenger seat and the seat immediately behind the driver unoccupied.**
- **Transport one fare at a time (e.g. people from the same household).**
- **Clean your hands before you pick-up each fare with an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.**
- **Open the vehicle windows** (weather permitting) and use the vents of the vehicle to bring in fresh air from outside (avoid using the recirculated air option of the vehicle).
- **Encourage passengers to use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer before entering the vehicle, and ask passengers to avoid touching the interior of the vehicle as much as possible.**
- Limit contact with passengers by:
  - **Requiring passengers to load and unload their personal belongings (e.g., suitcases, briefcases) by themselves; if this is not feasible and passengers require assistance, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer before/after (un)loading passengers' personal belongings. and**
  - **Requiring passengers to sit in the back seats only (if transporting one passenger, have them sit in the back, passenger side of the vehicle). The front passenger seat should be vacant at all times. This may mean limiting the number of passengers you transport at one time, and may require additional trips. Passengers with special needs who require a companion may sit next to their companion (treated as if they were from the same household). As applicable, passengers from different households should also maintain physical distancing (two metres) when lining up to get in the vehicle, and when exiting the vehicle.**
  - Should a passenger require assistance getting in/out of the vehicle and/or with their seatbelts, limit the interaction to be as brief as possible, and use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer before/after assisting the passenger.

- **Direct passengers to place all of their personal belongings in the trunk rather than in the back seat.**
- Encourage cashless transactions.
- **Clean and disinfect your vehicle** after you drop off each fare with an alcohol (70 per cent) wipe, paying close attention to surfaces that are touched frequently (e.g., door handles, window controls, payment device). Where possible, use vehicles with interior surfaces that can be cleaned and disinfected easily (e.g. vinyl seats instead of fabric).
- **Clean your hands** after you drop off each fare with an alcohol-based hand sanitizer. You should also clean your hands before and after you eat as well as after you cough or sneeze.
- **Provide a closed bin, lined with a plastic bag (i.e., plastic-lined garbage container) to enable the hygienic disposal of waste (e.g., used tissues).**
- Everyone in the vehicle should avoid touching their face, practice good cough etiquette, avoid touching high-touch areas and clean their hands before and after getting in the vehicle.

## **Pre-arrival requirement #4: Safe quarantine, and 14-day quarantine requirements #1, #2, #3 and #4: Self-monitoring and assessment of COVID-19 symptoms, ArriveCan Application, and Supports for students and their co-arriving immediate family members for safe quarantine**

- Institutions need to have plans for regular and robust institutional monitoring of quarantined individuals throughout the 14-day quarantine period for COVID-19 symptoms, general well-being, compliance with quarantine requirements, with emphasis on individual COVID-19 infection control practices.
  - Manitoba Public Health advised that **at a minimum, institutions should be reminding students to monitor for symptoms and to take [Manitoba Self Screening Tool](#).**

- Institutions should establish a plan, protocols and supports for periodic physical and wellness check-ins with international students throughout the 14-day quarantine period.
  - The plan should indicate that **daily check-ins** with students include someone specifically asking the student how they are doing in both their **mental and physical health**.
  - The plan should include a **direct ask** if the student / immediate family member quarantining with them is/are experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms, and remind them to take the self-assessment using the [Manitoba self-screening tool](#) and the [ArriveCAN application](#).
- The following information should also be provided:
    - If a student experiences any symptoms of COVID-19 during the quarantine period, they must follow the directives of the Province of Manitoba.
    - The Screening Tool is available in the Interactive Voice Response (IVR) format. Call 1-877-308-9038 or find it online.
    - The Province of Manitoba offers a service called Health Links – Info Santé, which is a bilingual phone-based nursing triage service. Health Links – Info Santé can give you advice on what health-care path should be followed in your specific situation. They can be contacted at 204-788-8200 or toll-free at 1-888-315-9257.
  - Manitoba Public Health also advised that it is important for institutions to **specify who will be conducting the regular check-ins** and sending the reminders (i.e., staff from the international student office).
  - Add into your plans that:
    - Best practice is for international students and co-arriving family members to use the **ArriveCAN application** within 48 hours after arrival in Canada, and for their **daily symptom** reporting to the federal government.

## 14-day quarantine requirement #5: Anti-Stigma Support

- Institutions should include their anti-racism, diversity, inclusion and respectful workplace policies, as well as any student organizations, services and supports that are available to students. Institutions should also indicate where students could get for help if they are experiencing stigma.

- Institutions may consider including the following resources related to stigma and anti-racism:

**WHO:** <https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/covid19-stigma-guide.pdf>

**Public Health Agency of Canada:**

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/publications/diseases-conditions/covid-19-testing-reducing-stigma.html>

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/corporate/publications/chief-public-health-officer-reports-state-public-health-canada/addressing-stigma-toward-more-inclusive-health-system.html>

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/corporate/organizational-structure/canada-chief-public-health-officer/addressing-stigma.html>

**Canadian Center for Occupational Health and Safety:**

[https://www.ccohs.ca/images/products/pandemiccovid19/pdf/preventing\\_stigma.pdf](https://www.ccohs.ca/images/products/pandemiccovid19/pdf/preventing_stigma.pdf)

## **14-day quarantine requirement #6 and Post-quarantine requirements #1 and #2: Mitigation of social barriers , Continued supports**

- In addition to outlining steps your institution is taking to mitigate social barriers (as above) and support to students and others in preventing the spread of infection, Manitoba Public Health advised that institutions should include detail on academic, financial, and health support (physical and mental) for students in institutions' plans.

## **Additional Feedback from Manitoba Public Health**

### **Change the terminology (self-isolation vs quarantine)**

- Manitoba Public Health advises that quarantine is a legal term used if someone is not sick. Once someone tests COVID-19 positive, they would have to self-isolate. The contacts to the positive COVID patient would have to continue to quarantine while the COVID patient would have to self-isolate.

- Manitoba Public Health is requesting that your plans use the terms appropriately throughout your documents.