



NEWS FROM THE OOM April 1, 2022

THE OOM STAFF WORKING REMOTELY

The OOM office is closed to the public and members for the foreseeable future due to COVID. Staff are working remotely.

Do not drop off any items in the mailbox behind the building or the bin in the building as we will not be checking these receptacles with any frequency.

Send all documents to us by regular mail. All mail has been redirected with Canada Post. It is business as usual, hours 8:30am to 4:30pm Monday to Friday. We will return to the office as soon as this latest wave of COVID calms down.

SHARED HEALTH MANITOBA RESTRICTIONS FOR HEALTH CARE SETTINGS STILL IN PLACE

As of March 10, 2022: Manitoba Shared Health advised all regulatory health bodies in Manitoba that they will be requiring mandatory mask use and other restrictions for health clinics, staff, and visitors after March 15, 2022. Here is the link:

<https://sharedhealthmb.ca/news/2022-03-10-mask-policy-to-remain-in-place/>

Excerpt -

“Manitobans are reminded that health-care facilities continue to require a mask be worn by anyone present in the facility, including outpatients, visitors, and health-care workers. This requirement – which applies to hospitals, health centres, long-term care facilities and other care settings – will remain in place after March 15, 2022, when provincial public health orders no longer require masks in public places. – Shared Health

As of April 1, 2022, additional information about changes to return to work guidance was provided from Shared Health Manitoba:

“Changes to Return to Work Guidance – Effective APRIL 6

Effective April 6, 2022, return to work guidance will change in response to evolving national and international evidence-based recommendations.

This change adds a preventative step in the form of a negative rapid antigen test for staff returning before a full 10-days have passed since their symptom onset or positive test (if asymptomatic). In addition to providing an additional preventative measure, this change will allow for a return to more

normalized practices for health-care workers during meal and break periods (eliminating the need for some to take these breaks alone/away from others).

Health-care workers (regardless of their vaccination status) who have tested positive for COVID-19 must perform a self-administered rapid antigen test on day seven (7) following their symptom onset or positive test result (if they are asymptomatic) and must receive a negative result.

Health-care workers who have returned to work under guidance that is currently in effect (which does not at present require a negative test on day 7) are grandfathered under this guidance provided they return to work on or before April 6, 2022. Please note that grandfathered health-care workers must continue to take breaks and meals (any time when PPE is not being worn) away from others during days 6-10 following their symptom onset/positive test result.

THANK YOU for your understanding and cooperation as guidance evolves.”

Full guidance for health-care **workers** return to work/testing is available here:

<https://sharedhealthmb.ca/files/covid-19-changes-to-return-to-work-guidance..pdf>

Updated **return to work QRG**/staff screening tool is available here:

<https://sharedhealthmb.ca/files/covid-19-return-to-work-qrg.pdf>

FAQs have been consolidated and updated and are available here:

<https://sharedhealthmb.ca/files/covid-19-staff-return-to-work-faq.pdf>

The updated OOM guidelines are attached above and may be found on the home page of the OOM website.

Reprint regarding Third Dose COVID – 19 Vaccination

Although this was sent to you earlier in the year, please note you are eligible to receive the booster to extend immunity from the two earlier vaccines. The OOM does not require opticians working in the private sector (non-government run businesses) to be mandatorily vaccinated, however, the OOM does **strongly recommend** all OOM members to be fully vaccinated.

Third Dose COVID-19 Vaccination Eligibility for Health Care Workers

Manitoba is expanding access to third doses of the COVID-19 vaccine, to include health care workers whose roles involve direct contact with patients, residents, or clients. Also included are all First Nation health care workers, including Traditional Healers and Knowledge Keepers.

Accessing the third dose is voluntary and does not change or impact an individual’s “fully vaccinated” status. The third dose is however recommended as an **additional layer of protection now available to health care workers.**

Individuals who have received two doses of the COVID-19 will continue to be considered “fully vaccinated” once 14 days have passed since receiving their second dose.

It is recommended that the third dose be given at least six months after an individual’s second dose, unless other third-dose criteria are met (view [criteria](#)).

Health care workers who wish to receive a third dose of the vaccine can receive it at any clinic or site where the COVID vaccine is offered. This includes participating physicians and pharmacies, regional vaccine clinics, and Urban Indigenous Clinics. Information on facility-based or regional occupational health clinics throughout the province will also be shared with health care workers in the coming weeks.

A prescription is NOT required for health care workers to access a third dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. Workplace identification should be presented at the vaccine appointment.

Manitoba is now also allowing the COVID-19 vaccine to be given at the same time as other vaccines, including the Influenza vaccine. This change is consistent with updated guidance from the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) on September 28.

Health care workers are encouraged to get your flu vaccine as soon as possible to protect yourself and your patients, residents, and clients.

To confirm the date of your second dose visit <https://sharedhealthmb.ca/covid19/test-results/> or <https://www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/vaccine/immunizationrecord/residents.html#immunization-records>.

Stay safe!!

“An optimist is the human personification of spring.”

~ Susan J. Bissonette

Michelle

Michelle Martin-Strong B.A. (Hons.), LL.B

Registrar

(pronouns she/her)

Opticians of Manitoba

215 - 1080 Portage Avenue

Winnipeg, MB R3G 3M3

Phone: (204) 222-8404 ext 2

Fax: (204)222-5296

Toll Free: 1-855-346-3715

www.opticiansofmanitoba.ca

OOM operates on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the Michif Piyii (Métis), Anishinabewaki ᐱᐢᐣᐣᐱᐣ ᐱᐣᐣᐣᐣᐣᐣ and Ojéhéthi Šakówiŋ Nations.

We recognize that reconciliation, decolonization, and anti-racism are ongoing processes. We are committed to providing an inclusive and welcoming environment that is free from prejudice and discrimination for the public, members, volunteers, staff, and other stakeholders.

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