

October 2, 2009

- To: Chief Executive Officers**
- **Regional Health Authorities**
 - **CancerCare Manitoba**
 - **Diagnostic Services of Manitoba**
 - **Selkirk Mental Health Centre**
 - **Provincial Nursing Stations**
 - **Addictions Foundation of Manitoba**

Re: Manitoba Health and Healthy Living (MHHL) Guidelines for Use of Personal Respiratory Protection when interacting with Patients with Symptoms of Influenza-like Illness (ILI) or other Respiratory Infections in Acute, Long Term, Pre-Hospital Care Settings

Dear Madam/Sir:

In the anticipation of a second wave of H1N1 influenza in Manitoba, guidelines have been developed for when an N95 or surgical masks should be worn. Please visit the MHHL website link at: <http://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/sri/docs/ipcili.pdf> to see the most current scientific guidelines.

MHHL is recommending fit testing for N95 respirators for all health care professionals according to those guidelines. Workers that potentially may be exposed to a patient/resident with ILI may also choose to be fit-tested at their discretion. N95 respirators will be available for all health care professionals treating ILI should they think they need one.

For more information on N95 respirators, please see the fact sheet *Effectively using N95 Respirators* – available on the MHHL website link at: <http://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/sri/index.html>.

Please take steps to ensure this information is shared widely with all staff and please post this information. For the most current information, please visit www.manitoba.ca.

Yours sincerely,

“original signed by”

Arlene Wilgosh

- c. Dr. J. Kettner, Public Health Division, MHHL
Jim Wolfe, First Nations and Inuit Health, Health Canada