

Province Announces Over \$100 Million in Support and Relief for Manitoba's Fight Against COVID-19

Manitoba Protection Plan Ensures Government Can Respond Quickly and Effectively to Needs of Manitobans: Pallister

Government of Manitoba News Release, April 3, 2020

The Manitoba government is announcing new measures in the Manitoba Protection Plan to provide extra support and relief to homeowners and businesses, and to enhance health preparedness for new medical equipment and shelter space in the fight against COVID-19, Premier Brian Pallister announced today.

“Our government’s number one priority during this global pandemic is keeping Manitobans safe and ensuring our health-care system is there for us and our loved ones,” said Pallister. “We must protect our most valuable service – our health-care system – and protect our most vulnerable people, our senior citizens, our homeless, those faced with threats of violence and those who are facing new financial challenges.”

Faster Health Equipment Procurement

The government is investing more than \$100 million to accelerate the pace at which Manitoba is procuring essential medical supplies and equipment, hotel capacity and other critical needs to help prepare for COVID-19.

“Manitobans have always risen to the challenge and what we’ve seen so far during this pandemic is no exception,” said Pallister. “This \$100-million investment will allow us to support made-in-Manitoba products and solutions from local businesses to quickly help in our collective efforts to fight COVID-19 and protect Manitobans in the weeks and months ahead.”

Manitoba manufacturers or businesses that are prepared to rapidly scale up production or re-tool manufacturing lines to develop products made in Manitoba to help in the fight against COVID-19 can go to the portal at www.manitoba.ca/covid19, and then visit the business and workplace page.

The province is also issuing a call to businesses who have a stock of personal protective equipment. If the equipment is not being used due to closures and physical distancing, they can also reach out by visiting www.manitoba.ca/covid19.

In addition, Manitoba businesses can donate unused personal protective equipment supplies in original packaging, clean and in useable condition. For more info, visit: <https://sharedhealthmb.ca/covid19/supply-donations/>.

Cash Flow Tax Relief

Today’s measures will provide immediate relief to Manitobans facing financial challenges by deferring provincial fees and charges, the premier noted.

As part of the Manitoba Protection Plan, the province is providing the following protections for the next six months until Oct. 1:

- instructing Manitoba Hydro, Centra Gas and Manitoba Public Insurance (MPI) to not charge interest or penalties in the event that Manitobans are unable to pay at this time;
- instructing MPI to relax ordinary practices on policy renewals and collections;
- instructing Manitoba Liquor and Lotteries not to charge interest on receivables from restaurants, bars and specialty wine stores;
- supporting Workers Compensation Board (WCB) to do the same and asking WCB to extend relief from penalties for late payments;
- directing Manitoba Hydro and Centra Gas to not disconnect customers during these times; and
- working with municipal partners to ensure municipalities do not charge interest on provincial education taxes and school division fees and the province is encouraging municipalities to do the same with respect to their own taxes and will start discussions to support implementation.

The government is also deferring provincial income tax and corporate income tax filing deadlines and payments to coincide with the current revised federal deferral of income tax to Aug. 31 and has indicated it would be willing to extend these deferrals until Oct. 1, should the federal government agree, the premier added.

The new measures are in addition to the recently announced two-month deferral for small businesses that remit up to \$10,000 in Manitoba payroll tax or \$10,000 in sales tax. This will result in \$80 million in deferred remittance to the province.

MBP update

Our office hours remain 8:30am-4:30pm, Monday to Friday. Please continue to contact us through all our regular channels including:

Telephone: 204-772-4542 or toll-free 1-800-772-0458

Fax: 204-774-3264

Email: info@mbbeef.ca

Social media:  [Manitoba Beef Producers](#)  [@ManitobaBeef](#)

COVID-19 Resources

Please visit the [Government of Manitoba](#) or the [Public Health Agency of Canada](#) for reliable information about COVID-19.

For the latest industry news:

<https://www.mbbeef.ca/news/covid-19-updates/>

The Canadian Cattlemen's Association (CCA) is collaborating with industry stakeholders and the Government of Canada (GoC) to ensure both stable beef production and trade during and following the COVID-19 pandemic. Ensuring Canadians have continued access to nutritious beef products is a top priority in these discussions. For updates, information and practical resources to help navigate the challenging landscape of COVID-19, please [click here](#).

Please consider taking part in species at risk survey

Dear beef producers,

Smart Prosperity Institute (a green economy think tank and research network based at the University of Ottawa) is circulating a survey to species at risk (SAR) stakeholders, right-holders and titleholders in the agriculture, forest and wildlife conservation sectors. This survey is part of a multi-year research project on species at risk conservation measures in Canada's agriculture and forest sectors, which aims to provide policy-relevant advice to inform the federal government's Priority Sectors Initiative, under the Pan-Canadian Approach to Transforming Species at Risk Conservation in Canada.

Eligible survey participants include landowners, industry, federal, provincial and territorial governments, Indigenous organizations, non-profit organizations and academia. The survey aims to gauge participants' perceptions of the biological effectiveness, cost-effectiveness, and the political feasibility of various SAR threat abatement and compensation measures in the agriculture and forest sectors. It will also assess stakeholder preferences for various conservation policy instruments (e.g. cost-share, conservation easements, certification, etc.), as well as opinions about the suitability and necessity of financial compensation for SAR conservation actions.

SPI has pre-tested the survey to ensure that it takes approximately 20 to 30 minutes to complete the mandatory survey questions. You may also choose to answer the optional questions at the end of the survey. Moreover, you can save your progress and return to the survey at a later date. Smart Prosperity Institute hopes to receive all of the survey responses by May 8, 2020.

The Canadian Cattlemen's Association (CCA) has committed to participating in the survey. As a CCA member, Manitoba Beef Producers asks you to consider participating in this survey which is available at the following link:

https://rc1usery53gtbwwwsfw.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_26a0q5u1LHfYDm5

Participating in this survey would provide the beef industry with a strong opportunity to voice its views and preferences on SAR policy. The survey also has the potential to improve policymaking by informing practitioners of the potential effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of species at risk conservation and recovery actions, as well as the overall acceptability of these actions. Results from the survey will be reported through a number of media-based platforms (including webinars), and a published report on species at risk trends in Canada's agriculture and forest sectors.

All personal information will be kept confidential and survey data will be stored in a format that cannot be linked to individual respondents. All survey results will be reported in terms of aggregate-level trends, and the identities of participants will not be revealed in any communication of results.

If you have any questions about the survey or to report any trouble-shooting issues, please contact Scott McFtridge at scott@smartprosperity.ca.

MBP thanks you for considering participating in this survey.

Support and Relief (cont. from page 1)

Pallister also announced plans to help make insurance more affordable for Manitobans. While the province has no ability to allow for deferrals of payments or the waiver of interest charges and penalties, Manitoba is taking steps to make home and business property insurance more affordable to Manitobans by accelerating the removal of \$75 million of annual PST from residential and business properties, effective July 1.

This will save residential property owners an estimated \$38 million per year and business property owners \$37 million a year.

Expanded Shelter Capacity

The Manitoba government will add more than 140 new shelter beds to support people affected by homelessness and allow for social distancing protocols as part of the province's broader Manitoba Protection Plan response to COVID-19, the premier announced.

"While many of us have the capacity to shelter at home, the reality is some of us do not," said Pallister. "Through our Manitoba Protection Plan, our government will ensure people who don't have a stable home have a place to stay safe and healthy as we respond to the COVID-19 pandemic together."

Up to \$1.2 million will be invested at several locations in Winnipeg to:

- repurpose a vacant Manitoba Housing building on Sargent Avenue to create 31 new beds;
- add 35 beds provided by the Salvation Army at its Martha Street location;
- expand Siloam Mission's capacity by 50 beds; and
- move individuals currently using the Salvation Army's SonRise Village to alternate locations, making its 26 beds available for new clients.

The beds at the Sargent Avenue location will be managed by Main Street Project, which is partnering with other shelters to coordinate access among their clients. This location will open today and others will become available as soon as possible.

The provincial building on Sargent Avenue may also be used as self-isolation units for homeless individuals who need it.

The premier noted the province is also looking into additional options to support homeless and vulnerable people outside of Winnipeg as part of the province's Manitoba Protection Plan response to COVID-19.

"Our government remains committed to looking at every possible way to help all Manitobans through these uncertain times, by providing financial relief and support needed on the front line as we face this global pandemic together."

The province continues to rely on the recommendations of the chief provincial public health officer in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and encourages all Manitobans to engage in social distancing protocols.

For more information, visit www.manitoba.ca/covid19.

Province Advises Outflow from Shellmouth Reservoir Increasing

Government of Manitoba News Release, April 2, 2020

Manitoba Infrastructure's Hydrologic Forecast Centre reports the outflow from the Shellmouth Reservoir will be increasing to 800 cubic feet per second (cfs) from 100 cfs as part of the annual reduction from the upper Assiniboine River.

This will result in a two-to-three foot increase on the Assiniboine River from the Shellmouth to Russell, and one-to-two ft. from Russell to Brandon. There will be a 0.5-to-one ft. increase as the water reaches Winnipeg in about two weeks.

The increased outflow will result in potentially hazardous ice conditions from the Shellmouth Reservoir down the Assiniboine River. Citizens are advised to stay off the river at this time.

The province will continue to monitor conditions on the upper Assiniboine River as well as downstream river levels.

The Hydrologic Forecast Centre is also advising the public of potentially hazardous ice conditions on rivers, lakes and drainage ditches throughout Manitoba as the spring thaw progresses.

Use of the rivers, lakes, floodways or drainage ditches for activities such as skiing, sledding and snowmobiling could be hazardous at this time and should be avoided. People living near waterways should be especially careful to prevent children and pets from wandering onto the ice.

Daily temperatures are warming gradually and are causing ice thickness and strength to deteriorate. The quality of river ice within communities is also uncertain, so citizens are advised to stay off rivers and retention ponds.

Reduce the spread of COVID-19 – *Wash your hands!*



- Wet hands with warm water.

- Apply soap.

- Wash for at least 20 seconds (including your palms, back of each hand, between fingers, thumbs and under nails).

- Rinse well.

- Dry hands with paper towel.

- Turn off tap using paper towel.

ABOUT CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19)

WHAT IT IS

COVID-19 is an illness caused by a coronavirus.

Human coronaviruses are common and are typically associated with mild illnesses, similar to the common cold.

SYMPTOMS

Symptoms may be very mild or more serious. They may take up to 14 days to appear after exposure to the virus.



FEVER



COUGH



DIFFICULTY BREATHING

HOW IT IS SPREAD

Coronaviruses are most commonly SPREAD from an infected person through:

- ▶ respiratory droplets when you cough or sneeze
- ▶ close personal contact, such as touching or shaking hands
- ▶ touching something with the virus on it, then touching your eyes, nose or mouth before washing your hands

These viruses are not known to spread through ventilation systems or through water.

PREVENTION

The best way to prevent the spread of infections is to:



- ▶ wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds



- ▶ avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth, especially with unwashed hands



- ▶ avoid close contact with people who are sick



- ▶ when coughing or sneezing:
 - cover your mouth and nose with your arm or tissues to reduce the spread of germs



- immediately dispose of any tissues you have used into the garbage as soon as possible and wash your hands afterwards



- ▶ clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces, such as toys, electronic devices and doorknobs.



- ▶ stay home if you are sick to avoid spreading illness to others

IF YOU HAVE SYMPTOMS

If you have SYMPTOMS of COVID-19 — fever, cough, or difficulty breathing:

- ▶ stay home to avoid spreading it to others
 - if you live with others, stay in a separate room or keep a 2-metre distance
- ▶ call ahead before you visit a health care professional or call your local public health authority
 - tell them your symptoms and follow their instructions
- ▶ if you need immediate medical attention, call 911 and tell them your symptoms.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON CORONAVIRUS:

📞 1-833-784-4397

@ canada.ca/coronavirus



Public Health
Agency of Canada

Agence de la santé
publique du Canada

Canada

Manitoba Restricts Operations of Non-Critical Businesses in New Public Health Order Changes Made to Protect Health, Safety of all Manitobans: Pallister

Government of Manitoba News Release, March 30, 2020

The Manitoba government is issuing a new public health order to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and protect the health and safety of all Manitobans, Premier Brian Pallister announced.

"These decisions are not easy ones, but they must be made during this global pandemic to protect the health and safety of all Manitobans," said Pallister. "These new orders will ensure critical services are available while taking steps to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in our communities."

The chief provincial public health officer is issuing orders under The Public Health Act as approved by the minister of health, seniors and active living. The following measures will be in place as of 12:01 a.m. on Wednesday, April 1:

- Public gatherings are limited to no more than 10 people at any indoor or outdoor place or premises. This includes places of worship, gatherings and family events such as weddings and funerals. This does not apply to a facility where health care or social services are provided including child-care centres and homeless shelters. This remains in effect at this time under the previous health order issued on March 27, and will continue when this order comes into effect on April 1.
- All restaurants and other commercial facilities that serve food are prohibited from serving food to customers in their premises. This prevents eat-in dining at all facilities. However, restaurants and other commercial facilities can prepare and serve food for delivery or takeout. If this takes place, the operator of the restaurant must ensure that all people maintain the appropriate social distancing from other customers when picking up food.
- All businesses that are not listed in the schedule of critical services that accompanies the order must close between April 1 and April 14.
 - This closure order does not prevent these businesses from operating on a remote basis.
 - A business may accept orders on the Internet, or over the phone for delivery or pickup, as long as the employees are not working at the place of business.
 - The order does not prevent employees or others from coming into the business to perform repairs, to provide security services or to take out items from the business premises if the business is going to operate on a remote basis.
 - Nothing in the order restricts the operations of delivery of services by the federal or provincial governments or a municipality.
 - Nothing in the order restricts any activities of a publicly funded agency, organization or authority that delivers or supports government operations or services including health-care services. This means the order does not affect institutions, agencies and other service providers who provide health-care services such as hospitals, regional health authorities and private agencies who provide a range of health services.

All businesses listed in the schedule of critical services that accompanies the order may continue to operate. If these businesses allow members of the public to attend the place of business, the operator of the business must put in place measures to ensure that appropriate social distancing rules are followed.

- The order does not affect how members of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Manitoba, the College of Registered Nurses of Manitoba, the College of Licensed Practical Nurses of Manitoba or the College of Midwives of Manitoba provide health-care services under the order. Any other health professionals may continue to practice if they are providing services for a publicly funded agency, such as a government or a regional health authority, or a business listed under the schedule. In addition, health-care providers can continue to provide emergent or urgent care such as dental surgery.
- Municipal transit services, taxis and other private vehicles for hire can continue to operate. The operator of the vehicle must take measures to ensure there is a reasonable separation of people in a vehicle. This order does not contain specific distance restrictions because it is hard to impose a limit in small vehicles. The goal is to ensure a reasonable level of spacing between people.

The order also repeals previous orders as of 12:01 a.m. on Wednesday, April 1 so there is only one public health order in effect at a time.

"We are seeing what is happening in other jurisdictions, and the time to act is now. We must continue to adapt to the situation and change our day-to-day lives to prevent unnecessary illness and further tragedies in Manitoba," said Dr. Brent Roussin, chief provincial public health officer. "These measures will help us reduce the risk and protect all Manitobans during the ongoing pandemic."

The premier noted that a state of emergency declared by the powers set out in Section 10(1) and 10(2) of The Emergency Measures Act to enable the province to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic remains in effect.

"Manitobans have always pulled together in a time of crisis and this is no different," said Pallister. "We must continue to do whatever we can to support each other."

The list of public health orders and the schedule of critical services can be found online at www.manitoba.ca/covid19/soe.html. Businesses with questions about how the order and schedule of critical services apply to their operations can visit <http://engagemb.ca/covid19-csp> for up-to-date information, and to ask questions that will be answered by government officials.

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The Updated Public Health Order and Agriculture

There are several sections of Manitoba's latest Public Health Order dealing with essential services that directly or indirectly pertain to agriculture. Examples of these include, but are not limited to:

1. A business:

(a) that provides another business listed in this Schedule with goods or services necessary for the business to operate, including transportation and logistics management relating to those goods or services; or
(b) that supports or facilitates the two-way movement of essential goods within integrated North American and global supply chains.

2. A business that provides, either by wholesale or by retail sale, food or household consumer goods necessary for the safety, sanitation or operation of residences and businesses. Such a business includes a grocery store, supermarket, convenience store, butcher shop, bakery, market, hardware store and any other similar wholesale or retail business.

3. A business that provides personal protective equipment or protective clothing for use in the workplace.

4. A business that provides essential goods and services for the health and well-being of animals, including animal feed, pet food, and animal supplies such as bedding.

5. A gas station or other business that provides diesel, aviation, propane, heating fuel or other fuel used to power a motor vehicle, aircraft or watercraft.

13. A business that provides transportation services necessary for the activities of daily living.

14. A business that provides transportation services to other businesses or individuals by road, rail, air or water, including a business that provides logistical support, distribution services or warehousing and storage, or truck stops.

15. A business that services or repairs vehicles, aircraft, watercraft, bicycles and includes car, truck and farm equipment dealerships and related facilities and auto supply stores and other similar retail businesses.

20. A business that is engaged in farming, harvesting, processing, manufacturing, producing or distributing food or farm products such as crops, animal products and by-products or beverages.

21. A business that is engaged in fishing, hunting or aquaculture.

22. A business that supports the food supply chain, including assembly yards, livestock auctions, food distribution hubs, feed mills, farm equipment suppliers, feed suppliers, food terminals and warehouses, animal processing plants and grain elevators.

23. A business that supplies agricultural producers with necessary products or services, such as seed, fertilizers, herbicides, pesticides, agricultural equipment, custom application of herbicides and pesticides and the repair of agricultural equipment.

24. A business that supports the safety of food, including animal and plant health and animal well-being.

25. A business that provides veterinary services or that supplies veterinary or animal control medications and related supplies and testing kits.

26. A business involved in ensuring the safe and effective management of animal waste, and includes a business responsible for the disposal of dead animals, rendering, nutrient management and biohazardous materials treatment or disposal.

60. A lawyer, paralegal, accountant, translator, veterinarian, engineer or geoscientist.

73. A business that provides for the health and well-being of animals, including farms, boarding kennels, stables, animal shelters, zoos, aquariums, research facilities and other service providers.

COVID-19 IS HERE, MANITOBA

It only takes one person to infect many.
DON'T BE THAT ONE PERSON.

PROTECT yourself, **PROTECT** your loved ones and **PROTECT** your community

SOCIAL DISTANCING (also called Physical Distancing) is the best way to reduce the spread of viruses like COVID-19 during an outbreak. It means changes to our day-to-day lives to minimize close contact with others, whether we know them or not. With patience and cooperation, we can do this, and we need to do it NOW.

DO THIS:



Keep at least 2 arms lengths away

We still need to go out in public for things like essential appointments and shopping. Where possible, spending time outside and utilizing green spaces is also important. In all situations, keep at least **2 metres or 6 feet** from others as much as possible. This only applies if you don't feel sick. If you feel sick, you must stay home.



Stay home as much as possible

Things you can do at home like reading, watching TV, playing games, sitting on your deck, spring cleaning, yard work, and cooking are all good! **Staying home whenever possible makes us all safer right now.**



Shop wisely

There are things we need like groceries, fuel and the like. Where possible, use online shopping and home delivery. Please remember that panic buying is not needed. **Finally remember that if you feel sick, do not go out – you must stay home.**



Use technology to keep in touch

We all need to keep in touch with our friends and loved ones, especially when keeping physical distance. Phone calls, texting, and video chats are all great options.



ALSO REMEMBER:

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds and avoid touching your face
- Cough or sneeze into the bend of your arm
- Disinfect frequently-used surfaces often

DON'T DO THIS:



Non-essential gatherings

We all need to avoid things like parties, weddings, birthdays, play-dates, sleepovers for kids and other non-essential visitors to our homes. Also, avoid all non-essential travel.



Physical greetings

Handshakes and hugs are out. We need to get good at non-physical greetings like waving or nodding. Limiting unnecessary touching makes us all safer right now.



Touching surfaces people touch often

Walking or exercising outside is good, but keep your distance from others and avoid things like hand rails, public play structures and public phones whenever possible



Contact with people at higher risk

We all have a responsibility to protect those in our community who are most at risk from COVID-19, which includes the elderly and those with other health conditions. We can use non-physical ways to stay in touch, and where possible we can help these people with getting groceries and other essential errands.

FOR MORE INFO VISIT: covid19manitoba.ca

STAY SAFE, STAY STRONG
WE'RE IN THIS TOGETHER, MANITOBA.

Manitoba 

Government of Canada provides guidance on services and functions deemed essential to Canada's critical infrastructure during COVID-19

(April 2 Public Safety Canada News Release) Governments at all levels and the private sector need clear advice when it comes to determining the services and functions that are essential in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Honourable Bill Blair, Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness, has released the "[Guidance on Essential Services and Functions in Canada During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)" to assist various jurisdictions and businesses in their decision-making around the types of employees considered essential to maintain the health, safety, security and economic well-being of Canadians throughout this health crisis.

The guidance document provides a list of services and functions across Canada's 10 critical infrastructure sectors: Energy and Utilities, Information and Communication Technologies, Finance, Health, Food, Water, Transportation, Safety, Government and Manufacturing.

The guidance will support critical infrastructure employers in identifying and managing their workforce, while fostering alignment and harmonization across sectors.

The guidance is non-binding and advisory in nature, and should not be considered to be a federal directive or standard.

Quotes

"Through this incredibly challenging time, Canadians want the services they rely on every day for their health and safety and economic well-being to continue. We have put together this guidance to help support critical infrastructure employers in identifying and managing their workforce while responding to COVID-19."

– Bill Blair, Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness

Quick facts

- The guidance is based on the Canada's 10 critical infrastructure sectors identified in the [National Strategy for Critical Infrastructure](#).
- The list of essential services and functions was developed in consultation with industry and labour representatives and provinces and territories.
- Public Safety Canada will continually consult on and amend the list as events unfold.

The List

Canada's [National Strategy for Critical Infrastructure](#) defines critical infrastructure as the processes, systems, facilities, technologies, networks, assets, and services essential to the health, safety, security or economic well-being of Canadians and the effective functioning of government. The Strategy classifies critical infrastructure in Canada according to ten sectors: Energy and Utilities; Information and Communication Technologies; Finance; Health; Food; Water; Transportation; Safety; Government, and Manufacturing.

Public Safety Canada has developed a set of functions deemed essential in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic to help provinces/territories, Indigenous communities, and municipalities protect their communities while maintaining the reliable operation of critical infrastructure services and functions to ensure the health, safety, and economic well-being of the population. These services and functions can also help the private sector self-identify as essential.

These services and functions are considered essential to preserving life, health and basic societal functioning. These include, but are not limited to, the functions performed by first responders, health care workers, critical infrastructure workers (e.g., hydro and natural gas), and workers who are essential to supply critical goods such as food and medicines. Workers who deliver essential services and functions should continue to do their jobs provided they have no symptoms of COVID-19 disease. Employers of these workers should take all possible steps to protect their health and safety by implementing practices and procedures recommended by public health authorities and providing appropriate protective equipment and products. Further, workers who can perform their tasks remotely should do so.

Municipal, provincial, territorial or Indigenous jurisdictions have the legislative authority to implement and execute response actions within their jurisdictions, while Public Safety Canada has a key role to play to facilitate and enable critical infrastructure security and resilience.

The following are some of the essential services and functions identified that are relevant to agriculture:

Annex A: Essential Services and Functions by Critical Infrastructure Sector

Food

- Workers supporting groceries, pharmacies and other outlets that sell food and beverage products
- Restaurant employees necessary to support take-out and food delivery operations
- Food manufacturer employees and their supplier employees—to include those employed in food processing (packers, meat processing, fish processing, cheese plants, milk plants, produce, etc.) facilities; livestock, poultry, fish and seafood, slaughter facilities; pet and animal feed processing facilities; human food facilities producing by-products for animal food; beverage production facilities; and the production of food packaging
- Workers including those employed in animal food, feed, by-product and ingredient production, processing, packaging, and distribution; manufacturing, packaging, and distribution of veterinary drugs; truck delivery and transport; farm and fishery labor needed to harvest and produce our food supply domestically
- Agriculture and aquaculture workers and support service workers including those who field crops; those responsible for ethanol facilities, storage facilities, and other agricultural inputs
- Workers undertaking traditional harvesting activities, including fishing, hunting and agricultural activities

Continued on next page

Province Eases Spring Road Restrictions to Aid Transportation of Essential Commodities

The Manitoba government is easing 2020 Spring Road Restrictions to aid the transportation of essential commodities, Infrastructure Minister Ron Schuler announced.

“In order to allow vehicles to more easily transport essential goods during the current COVID-19 pandemic, we are easing spring road restrictions in certain circumstances,” said Schuler. “This will help ensure communities continue to have access to items such as medical supplies, groceries and emergency equipment at this crucial time.”

Under normal conditions, spring weight restrictions are enforced on Manitoba’s surfaced roads during the spring. This protects roads from excessive damage by reducing the axle weights of heavy commercial vehicles during the period when roads are most at risk of weakening under spring rains and thawing.

Under the revised restrictions, a vehicle may transport essential commodities at normal loading on highways that are subject to Level 1 road restrictions. Additionally, essential commodities may be transported at normal loading on roads subject to Level 2 restrictions, under the following conditions:

- If the highway links two points on the vehicle’s itinerary that are less than 10 kilometres apart, or in any other case if the highway is the most direct route between a point on the itinerary and the nearest highway that is not subject to Level 2 road restrictions. A point on the itinerary means that the vehicle is picking up, or dropping off a load on that Level 2 restricted highway.
- If the essential commodities are transported between midnight and noon during the first 14 days of this restriction order, or at any time of the day after the 14th day.

Vehicles that are travelling empty to pick up essential commodities, or travelling empty after having delivered them, may travel at any time of the day at Level 1 weights on highways that are subject to Level 2 road restrictions, if they comply with the above-noted conditions.

Essential commodities include groceries, medical supplies, fuel, fertilizer, bulk milk, potable water for non-industrial use, emergency equipment and materials, and mail delivery on behalf of the Canada Post Corporation. It also includes livestock and livestock feed in transit, and hay for feed in transit within Manitoba.

For the 2020 Spring Road Restrictions season, a permit is not required to transport grain to satisfy grain quotas or contracts, or to transport potatoes or vegetables from producer to processor, and these commodities are eligible for the normal loading described above.

Vehicles are not authorized to travel over a bridge or other structure in excess of posted weight restrictions.

For complete details on road restrictions, visit www.gov.mb.ca/mit/srr/index.html.

Essential services (cont. from page 9)

- Employees and firms supporting food, feed, and beverage distribution, including warehouse workers, vendor-managed inventory controllers
- Workers supporting the sanitation of all food manufacturing processes and operations from wholesale to retail
- Company in-house cafeterias used to feed employees
- Workers in food testing labs
- Employees of companies engaged in the production of chemicals, medicines, vaccines, and other substances used by the food and agriculture industry, including pesticides, herbicides, fertilizers, minerals, enrichments, and other agricultural production aids
- Animal agriculture workers to include those employed in veterinary health; manufacturing and distribution of animal medical materials, animal vaccines, animal drugs, feed ingredients, feed, and bedding, etc.; transportation of live animals, animal medical materials; transportation of deceased animals for disposal; raising of animals for food; animal production operations; slaughter and packing plants and associated regulatory and government workforce, including provincial, territorial and federal inspectors
- Employees engaged in the manufacture and maintenance of equipment and other infrastructure necessary to agricultural, aquaculture, and fishery production and distribution

Transportation

Essential transportation workers are defined as workers supporting or enabling transportation functions in any transportation mode (i.e. road, air, rail, marine), in support of the continued essential movement of goods and people, in circumstances where non-essential travel is restricted.

Other Services

- Veterinarians, veterinary technicians and necessary support staff
- Workers essential for assistance programs and government payments
- Health and welfare of animals, including boarding kennels, stables, animal shelters, zoos, aquariums, research facilities and other service providers

COVID-19 IS HERE.

-PROTECT yourself
-PROTECT your family
-PROTECT your community

manitoba.ca/covid19

Manitoba 

Province Releases Second 2020 Spring Thaw Outlook

On March 31 the Manitoba government released its March spring flood outlook. Of note from the outlook:

- The March Outlook Report prepared by the Hydrologic Forecast Centre of Manitoba Infrastructure reports the risk of major spring flooding in most Manitoba basins is low. The risk of major flooding is low for the Assiniboine, Souris, Qu'Appelle and Saskatchewan Rivers. The risk of major flooding is also low for the Interlake and northern Manitoba regions.
- Due to the above normal to record high soil moisture at freeze-up in southern and central Manitoba and normal to above normal winter precipitation to the middle of March in the U.S. portion of the Red River basin, the Red River Valley is at a higher risk of major flooding. There is a high risk of moderate flooding for southern and southeastern Manitoba, including the Roseau River and the Pembina River. However, the flooding risk level could change depending on weather conditions between now and the spring melt.
- Most of the major lakes are near normal for this time of the year, and the risk for lake flooding is low at this time. However, there is a high risk of moderate flooding in Whiteshell Lakes area as most of the Whiteshell Lakes are above normal for this time of the year.

The outlook notes that "The province's practice is to plan and prepare for the unfavourable weather condition scenario, which is a weather scenario that would result in a 1 in 10 chance of occurring... The magnitude of the spring flood flows on Manitoba's rivers is still very dependent on weather conditions from now till the spring melt and during the spring melt period. The flood potential is significantly affected by the amount of additional snow and the spring rains; the frost depth at the time of runoff; the timing and rate of the spring thaw; and the timing of peak flows in Manitoba, the United States, Saskatchewan and Ontario."

To read the report in its entirety, go to: https://www.gov.mb.ca/mit/floodinfo/pdf/2020/march_2020_flood_outlook_report.pdf

For additional information re: lake and river levels and flows, forecasts, maps, etc., go to: www.gov.mb.ca/mit/floodinfo/index.html.

To read the full March 31, 2020 media release please see page 12

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Province Releases Second 2020 Spring Thaw Outlook

With the annual spring run-off approaching, the province continues to watch the Red River Valley in anticipation of potential high-water situations, Infrastructure Minister Ron Schuler said today as he released the second Spring Thaw Outlook of 2020.

“Our outlook remains similar to the first outlook we released in late February and our focus continues to be on the Red River this spring,” said Schuler. “Forecasters are expecting a significant inflow of water from the northern United States and they expect high water levels similar to last spring, barring a major early April storm with substantial precipitation or a fast melt.”

The second Spring Thaw Outlook of 2020 reports the Assiniboine River basin and other rivers are expected to remain mostly in-bank, with possible over-bank high water covering agricultural land at a few locations.

Manitoba Infrastructure’s Hydrologic Forecast Centre reports with favourable conditions, water levels similar to the spring of 2019 are expected. Last year, the Red River Floodway was put into service but Provincial Trunk Highway (PTH) 75 from Winnipeg south to Emerson remained open.

Average weather conditions in spring 2020 would result in water levels similar to 2006 on the Red River, according to forecasters. In that year, PTH 75 was closed for 18 days. Unfavourable weather could lead to a run-off nearing 2011 levels. In 2011, PTH 75 was closed for 28 days.

The minister noted the province has invested nearly \$80 million in flood mitigation measures through the Red River Valley over the past four years. Projects include:

- \$31 million for raising northbound lanes of PTH 75 south from St. Jean Baptiste to Morris to 2009 flood levels and improving drainage;
- \$15.5 million for reconstructing the Plum River bridge in the northbound lanes of PTH 75 near St. Jean Baptiste;

- \$10.3 million for reconstructing the Marsh River bridge on PTH 23 east of Morris;
- \$4.2 million for reconstructing the Little Morris River bridge on PR 422 near Rosenfeld;
- a \$1.3-million project will raise PR 205 in the vicinity of Rosenort and this ongoing project is scheduled for completion in October 2020;
- a \$1-million project will raise PR 422 in the vicinity of Rosenort, scheduled to be completed in October 2020;
- a \$8.3-million bridge is under construction over the Aux Marais River on PR 201 with a scheduled completion date of fall 2020;
- a \$7.8-million concrete culvert replacement project is underway over the Kronsgart Drain on PTH 75 and is expected to be completed by fall 2020; and
- a \$1-million steel culvert replacement project for the Aubigny Drain on PR 246 is complete and open to traffic.

The minister noted that considerable provincial resources are involved in the fight against the spread of COVID-19 and officials have contingency plans in place if the approaching spring thaw requires preparations for high water management.

The delivery of emergency services continues with appropriate personal protection during this COVID-19 episode and any high water response will be developed with COVID-19 in mind. Safe work procedures are being finalized to ensure the safety of all response workers and maintain social distancing in producing sandbags and building dikes if required, the minister said.

“The government has also recently announced the most emergency-ready budget in Manitoba history with additional financial provisions for COVID-19 and any other emergencies we may face,” said Schuler. “Manitobans have dealt with many emergencies in the past, and we will be prepared for any high-water event that may develop over the coming weeks.”

Manitoba Calls on Child-Care Providers to Help Our Heroes Fight Covid-19

Government of Manitoba April 2, 2020 News Release

***Special provision announced re: farmers and farm workers seeking child care spaces.

The Manitoba government wants to thank all child-care providers that have stepped up to provide care to the children of health-care and other emergency services workers, and is calling on all child-care providers to help the heroes who are on the front line during the COVID-19 pandemic, Families Minister Heather Stefanson announced.

“The early childhood educators and child-care centres that have stepped up to provide child care to health-care and other emergency services workers are truly heroes helping heroes, and I want to thank them for stepping up during this difficult time,” said Stefanson. “There are still health-care and other emergency services workers who need child care, and today I want to call on child-care providers throughout our province to help those workers as they provide needed services during this pandemic.”

As of March 31, more than 1,200 children of health-care and other emergency services workers have been matched with an available space. To support centres so they can re-open during this critical time, the minister noted the first quarter of the provincial operating grant, amounting to nearly \$30 million, started flowing to all licensed child-care centres as of April 1. Licensed child-care facilities that want to help by re-opening or continuing to have spaces available should notify the province by emailing cdcinfo@gov.mb.ca.

Last month, the government also announced new programs to expand home and community-based child care, including an \$18-million grant program to help early childhood educators begin independently offering child-care services at their homes or in the community, administered by the Winnipeg and Manitoba chambers of commerce. The chambers will also offer business mentorship to early childhood educators looking to open up their homes or other locations in the community to provide child care. Early childhood educators can apply for the grant by filling out the Temporary Child Care Service Grant Form at <https://forms.gov.mb.ca/temporary-child-care-service-grant/>.

“It is not too late to step up and help out, whether you are operating in a child-care centre or in your own home,” said Stefanson. “Our government is providing financial support to child-care centres and early childhood educators during this difficult time, and we will continue to support the child-care sector so that we can help ensure health-care and other emergency services workers can continue working during this pandemic.”

All child-care centres have also been asked by the province to reimburse parent fees if care has not been provided and to not charge parents to hold spots if they are not being used, the minister added.

Licensed child-care centres will continue to be limited to 16 spaces to support social distancing and infection prevention measures based on the advice of the chief provincial public health officer. Some larger centres with segregated rooms and separate external entrances are able to offer care for up to 16 children per room. This will continue indefinitely in alignment with the decision regarding kindergarten to Grade 12 schools.

“If you are a front-line health-care or other emergency services worker, we want to hear from you,” said Stefanson. “Staff will continue working around the clock to ensure that you can get the child care that you need so you can continue working during this pandemic, after which we will be expanding service to all critical services workers as defined by the chief provincial public health officer.”

Health-care and other emergency services workers can apply for a child-care space by filling out the request form at <https://forms.gov.mb.ca/GoMCovid19ESW/>. These parents, which include health-care providers, emergency service providers, corrections workers, law enforcement workers, fire and paramedic workers, and direct social services and child protection workers, should submit their request to be matched with a child-care spot by Wednesday, April 8, so that they can be prioritized for placement. Families that have already submitted a request do not need to complete the form again, as the province is already working to match them with an available space.

Beginning on Tuesday, April 14, all parents who work in critical services, as defined by the chief provincial public health officer, will be able to access child-care spaces available in licensed facilities. This includes support staff at hospitals and clinics, grocery store staff, farmers and farm workers, construction workers, bank or credit union employees. Parents working in these sectors who have been unable to make other child-care arrangements will be able to check which facilities have available spaces at www.manitoba.ca/covid19 and work directly with them to receive a spot.

The listing of critical services, as authorized under The Public Health Act, is available at https://news.gov.mb.ca/asset_library/en/newslinks/2020/03/BG-PHA_-_COVID-19-PR.pdf.

Details of the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy to Help Businesses Keep Canadians in their jobs

(April 1 News Release, Department of Finance) The Government of Canada is taking immediate, significant and decisive action to support Canadians and businesses facing hardship as a result of the global COVID-19 outbreak.

To help Canadians and businesses get through these tough economic times, the Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, announced that the Government is proposing to introduce a wage subsidy of 75 per cent for qualifying businesses, for up to 3 months, retroactive to March 15, 2020.

This measure, which is a part of the Government of [Canada's COVID-19 Economic Response Plan](#), would support businesses that are hardest hit by the COVID-19 pandemic and would help protect the jobs Canadians depend on during these difficult times.

Finance Minister Bill Morneau, the Minister of Small Business, Export Promotion and International Trade, Mary Ng, and the Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry, Navdeep Bains, announced the details of the proposed Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy as follows:

- The Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy would apply at a rate of 75 per cent of the first \$58,700 normally earned by employees – representing a benefit of up to \$847 per week. The program would be in place for a 12-week period, from March 15 to June 6, 2020.
- Eligible employers who suffer a drop in gross revenues of at least 30 per cent in March, April or May, when compared to the same month in 2019, would be able to access the subsidy.
- Eligible employers would include employers of all sizes and across all sectors of the economy, with the exception of public sector entities.
- For non-profit organizations and registered charities similarly affected by a loss of revenue, the government will continue to work with the sector to ensure the definition of revenue is appropriate to their circumstances. The government is also considering additional support for non-profits and charities, particularly those involved in the front line response to COVID-19. Further details will be announced in the near term.
- An eligible employer's entitlement to this wage subsidy will be based entirely on the salary or wages actually paid to employees. All employers would be expected to at least make best efforts to top up salaries to 100% of the maximum wages covered.

The Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy is a key measure to ensure that workers are able to count on a source of income through this difficult time. It will enable employers to re-hire workers previously laid off, and to keep those who are already on payroll, so that Canada's workforce and supply chains are able to return from this crisis in a strong position.

Eligible employers would be able to access the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy by applying through a Canada Revenue Agency online portal. More details regarding how to apply for the program will follow. Those organizations that do not qualify for the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy may continue to qualify for the previously announced wage subsidy of 10 per cent of remuneration paid from March 18 to before June 20, up to a maximum subsidy of \$1,375 per employee and \$25,000 per employer.

The government will continue to carefully monitor all developments relating to the COVID-19 outbreak and will continue to take further action to protect Canadians and the economy.

Quotes

"Businesses provide the jobs, the goods and the services that Canadians depend on to keep their communities going, in good times and bad. With the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy, we are helping businesses keep their staff on payroll so that businesses will be better positioned to rebound when the current challenges have passed. We will continue to do whatever it takes to ensure that workers and businesses are supported through the outbreak, and that our economy remains resilient during these difficult times."

Bill Morneau, Minister of Finance

"Small businesses are at the heart of our communities and are the backbone of our economy, employing millions of hard-working Canadians. There is no question that they are feeling the brunt of this challenging time. This wage subsidy will help keep more Canadians employed and will provide direct support to businesses so they can keep up with their bills. We will continue to listen to the very real needs of Canadian business owners and workers, and we will be there to support them every step of the way."

Mary Ng, Minister of Small Business, Export Promotion and International Trade

"We have been in constant communication with Canadian businesses, and we know that all sectors of the economy are being affected by COVID-19. With the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy, employers—no matter their size—will be supported to weather this storm, to be ready to recover when it passes, and to help Canadians keep their jobs."

Navdeep Bains, Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry

Quick facts

- The government has taken action to support Canadian businesses through the outbreak of COVID-19, with targeted new initiatives that:
 - o Allow businesses, including self-employed individuals, to defer all Goods and Services Tax/Harmonized Sales Tax (GST/HST) payments until June, as well as customs duties owed for imports. This measure is the equivalent of providing up to \$30 billion in interest-free loans to Canadian businesses. It will help businesses so they can continue to pay their employees and their bills, and help ease cash-flow challenges across the country.

Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (continued from page 14)

- o Launch the new Canada Emergency Business Account. This program will provide up to \$25 billion to eligible financial institutions so they can provide interest-free loans to small businesses, including not-for-profits. These loans – guaranteed and funded by the Government of Canada – will ensure that small businesses have access to the capital they need, at a zero-per-cent interest rate, so they can pay for rent and other important costs over the next number of months.
- o Launch the new Small and Medium-sized Enterprise Loan and Guarantee program that will enable up to \$40 billion in lending, supported through Export Development Canada and Business Development Bank, for guaranteed loans when small businesses go to their financial institutions to help weather the impacts of COVID-19. This is intended for small and medium-sized companies that require greater help to meet their operational cash flow requirements.
- o Extend the maximum duration of the Work-Sharing program, from 38 weeks to 76 weeks, for workers who agree to reduce their normal working hours because of developments beyond the control of their employers.
- o Increase credit available for farmers and the agri-food sector through Farm Credit Canada.
- o Defer the payment of income taxes. The government is allowing all taxpayers to defer, until August 31, 2020, the payment of income tax amounts that become owing on or after March 18 and before September 2020. This relief would apply to new balances due, as well as instalments, under Part I of the Income Tax Act. No interest or penalties will accumulate on these amounts during this period.

Related products

- [The Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy](#)

<https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2020/04/government-announces-details-of-the-canada-emergency-wage-subsidy-to-help-businesses-keep-canadians-in-their-jobs.html>

Canada Emergency Response Benefit to Launch on April 6

(April 1 News Release, Employment and Social Development Canada) The Government of Canada is continuing to take strong, immediate and effective action to support Canadians impacted by the global COVID-19 pandemic.

The Honourable Carla Qualtrough, Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion, along with the Honourable Jean-Yves Duclos, President of the Treasury Board, on behalf of the Honourable Diane Lebouthillier, Minister of National Revenue, announced that Canadians will be able to apply for the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) as of April 6th at Canada.ca/coronavirus.

As part of the COVID-19 Economic Response Plan, the Government recently introduced the new Canada Emergency Response Benefit. This benefit will help Canadian workers impacted by COVID-19 put food on the table and keep a roof over their head. The CERB will support Canadians who have lost their income because of COVID-19 by providing \$2,000 a month for up to 4 months.

Some examples of support to workers provided by the CERB include:

- workers, including those who are self-employed, who must stop working due to COVID-19 and do not have access to paid leave or other income support;
- workers who lost their employment, as well as workers who are sick, quarantined or taking care of someone who is sick with COVID-19;
- working parents who must stay home without pay to care for children that are sick or need additional care because of school and daycare closures; and
- workers who still have their employment but are not being paid because there is currently not sufficient work and their employer has asked them not to come to work.

The Government of Canada's priority is to ensure that Canadians receive the money they are entitled to as quickly as possible. That is why the CERB is being jointly administered by Service Canada and the Canada Revenue Agency. This will leverage two of the Government of Canada's largest payment systems, allowing for more timely and accurate delivery of this important emergency benefit.

All eligible workers, whether or not they are eligible for Employment Insurance, will apply through a simplified application process. Applications will be accepted starting April 6, 2020. There is no waiting period and direct deposit payments will be delivered into accounts within three business days of applicants being eligible to receive it, and cheques within 10 days.

Quotes

"From the beginning we have been committed to supporting all Canadians who are unable to work due to the COVID-19 pandemic. No one should have to worry about paying their rent or mortgage, or supporting their families. The design of the CERB is being kept as simple as possible to make it quick and easy to access for all Canadian workers."

– **The Honourable Carla Qualtrough, Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion**

"We understand that Canadians are facing financial hardship as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, and we recognize the importance of getting funds into the hands of Canadians quickly and efficiently. Canadians can count on the Canada Revenue Agency to deliver these critical benefit payments to Canadians during this difficult time."

– **The Honourable Diane Lebouthillier, Minister of National Revenue**

"We are working to ensure every Canadian gets the money they need as quickly as possible. We expect eligible Canadians to be able to get the money they need in 3 to 5 business days."

– **The Honourable Jean-Yves Duclos, President of the Treasury Board**

Backgrounder : [Canada Emergency Response Benefit](#)

Guidance for Employers of Temporary Foreign Workers Regarding COVID-19

Context

- Further to recent announcements by the Government of Canada to facilitate the entry of foreign workers while taking steps to minimize the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19), this document outlines the expectations for employers of temporary foreign workers.
- Like all Canadians, most temporary foreign workers entering Canada are required to follow certain obligations, including self-isolation (visit the Resources section of www.canada.ca/coronavirus to learn more). Employers must not prevent workers from meeting those requirements in any way.
- In addition, employers have an important role to play in helping to prevent the introduction and spread of COVID-19. This document is intended to assist employers in understanding how to fulfill that role, with a view to helping to protect the health and safety of Canadians and workers.
- As the situation regarding COVID-19 continues to evolve, it is recommended that the following website be consulted regularly for the latest public health information: www.canada.ca/coronavirus.

Criteria for all Employers:

1. The worker's period of employment is intended to begin upon their arrival to Canada, and include the self-isolation period. This means that the employer must comply with all laws and policies regarding the employer-employee relationship during that period.
2. The employer must pay the worker regular pay and benefits for the self-isolation period. Specifically, for workers in the Seasonal Agricultural Worker Program, the provisions of the applicable contract must be followed. For other workers, the employer must pay the worker for a minimum of 30 hours per week, and at the rate of pay specified on the Labour Market Impact Assessment. The employer can withhold standard contract deductions (e.g. Employment Insurance, housing, transportation, etc.) as per applicable Program stream requirements. The employer is not allowed to deduct any additional amounts due to the self-isolation period. Proof of wages paid should be kept.
3. The employer cannot authorize the worker to work during the self-isolation period, even if requested by the worker, with the exception of those deemed as providing an essential service by the Chief Public Health Officer. In addition, the employer cannot ask the worker to perform other duties during that period, such as building repairs or administrative tasks.

4. The employer is responsible for regularly monitoring the health of workers who are self-isolating, as well as any employee who becomes sick after the self-isolation period. In practice, it is suggested that the employer communicate with the worker on a daily basis (e.g. call, text, email, or in-person two metres away if no other option is available) during the self-isolation period and ask if he/she is experiencing any symptoms (see www.canada.ca/coronavirus for a list), and maintain a record of responses received.
5. If a worker becomes symptomatic at any time, the employer must immediately arrange for the worker to be fully isolated from others, and contact local public health officials. It is also suggested that the employer contact the appropriate consulate.
6. The employer must ensure that all workers have the tools needed to practice good hygiene. This includes access to facilities that enable them to wash their hands often with soap and warm water, providing soap, and providing an alcohol-based sanitizer if soap and water are not available and hands are not visibly soiled.
7. The employer is asked to provide information to the worker on COVID-19 (see www.canada.ca/coronavirus for resources) either on or before their first day of self-isolation. With a view to promoting understanding by all workers, it is suggested that information be provided in a language the worker understands, and that consideration be given to providing this information in writing and/or orally (e.g. by phone, etc.), as appropriate. Several resources are available online. In addition, the Public Health Agency of Canada has some materials available in several languages for use, which can be accessed by calling 1-833-784-4397 or emailing phac.covid19.aspc@canada.ca.
8. Like all Canadians, the employer is asked to report a violation to the *Quarantine Act* on the part of a self-isolating worker to local law enforcement. This includes workers that do not respect the mandatory self-isolation period.
9. Throughout the course of this pandemic, all people in Canada, including employers, are expected to follow the latest public health requirements and/or guidance from the Government of Canada and the province/territory in which they operate. In addition, as per existing Program requirements, employers are required to follow all applicable federal and provincial/territorial employment and health and safety laws. This includes new provisions in several jurisdictions for job-protected sick leave as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Additional Criteria for Employers who Provide Accommodations:

10. The employer must house self-isolating workers in accommodations that are separate from those not subject to self-isolation. This may require finding alternate accommodations (e.g. hotel) if this requirement cannot be met.
11. The employer can house workers who are subject to self-isolation together, but the housing must enable them to be two metres apart from each other at all times. For example, beds must be at least two metres apart. Shared facilities (e.g. bathroom, kitchen, living space) are allowed, provided that there is sufficient space in the accommodations for workers to respect the self-isolation requirements. If this requirement cannot be met, alternate accommodations (e.g. hotel) may be required. In the best interest of all parties, it is recommended that date-stamped photos be taken of the facilities, including the bedroom, to demonstrate compliance.
 - **Note:** If new workers are housed for self-isolation in the same accommodations as others who are self-isolating, the clock resets to the day the most recent worker arrived. This is to account for the potential exposure of the new person from outside of the country to those already here.
12. The employer should ensure that surfaces in the accommodations are cleaned and disinfected regularly. It is suggested that surfaces in bathrooms, kitchens and common areas be cleaned and disinfected daily, or more often as required, and that a log be maintained. Workers can do this, as it constitutes essential care. The employer can also use the services of a professional cleaner, if desired. Regardless, the employer is expected to provide the cleaning materials (e.g. paper towels, household cleaning and disinfection products, dish soap and laundry soap).
13. The employer is asked to post information about preventing the spread of COVID-19 in the accommodations, including information that outlines best practices for workers in maintaining bathroom and other washing facilities. It is suggested that such information be posted in bathrooms, kitchens and common areas, and that it be posted in the language of the worker. Several resources are available online (visit the Resources section of www.canada.ca/coronavirus). In addition, the Public Health Agency of Canada has some materials available in several languages for use, which can be accessed by calling 1-833-784-4397 or emailing phac.covid19.aspc@canada.ca.
14. For the duration of the self-isolation period, the employer must ensure that the accommodations do not prevent the worker from avoiding contact with older adults (65+) and those with medical conditions who are at risk of developing serious illness. For example, a caregiver to an elderly person must be housed in separate accommodations for the duration of the self-isolation period.