



## MEMO

**Date:** July 23, 2020

**To:** WRHA, Operations Leads, Community Health Agencies, Thunderbird House, Health Links-Info Santé, Public Health, WRHA Community Services Leadership, Hospital and Health Centre Acute Care Leadership, Emergency Response Leadership, Mental Health Leadership, College of Physicians and Surgeons of Manitoba, Manitoba College of Family Physicians, Shared Health Leadership, Doctors Manitoba

**From:** Jennifer Spencer, Acting Director, Palliative and Home Care Services

**cc:** Gina Trinidad, Chief Health Operating Officer, Community and Continuing Care

**Re:** July Shift of COVID-19 Community Testing Sites in Winnipeg

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In order to accommodate ongoing demand in Winnipeg for COVID-19 testing the WRHA is actively working to offer additional testing options while balancing the needs of our partners who have allowed us the use of their sites these last number of months.

Beginning today, July 23, Access Fort Garry will open up testing capacity until 6 p.m. to relieve some of the pressure on existing sites. The site's hours will be 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. starting tomorrow. There will also be extended hours the Main Street location which will close today at 7pm.

Beginning Monday, July 27, the WRHA will shift COVID-19 testing from St. James Centennial Pool to a new testing facility located at 604 St. Mary's Road.

The new testing location on St. Mary's will be open seven days per week from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and is anticipated to accommodate the same number of tests offered regularly by the existing St. James location with room to increase capacity beyond what is currently offered.

In summary, the following changes will begin to take place immediately:

- July 23 any referrals for COVID-19 Assessment Clinic Appointments will be directed to attend an Access Centre (either Access Winnipeg West, Fort Gary or River East);
- July 23, Access Fort Garry will open walk-up testing pods to the public from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m.;
- July 26, 4 p.m. the St. James testing location will close to COVID-19 testing and assessments;
- July 27 at 9 a.m. the testing location at 604 St. Mary's Rd. will offer COVID-19 testing to the public based on self-referrals(walk-in).

The WRHA continues to work in partnership with Shared Health and other local Winnipeg partners to find appropriate locations to host COVID-19 testing in order to increase testing



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capacity for Winnipeg residents. More information regarding these plans will be made available as soon as it has been confirmed.

We appreciate your patience and support during this time and ask that you share these updates broadly to avoid confusion related to the shift of testing and assessment clinic locations.