



Health and Healthy Living
Deputy Minister

Room 327 Legislative Building, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada R3C 0V8

October 20, 2009

Chief Executive Officers

- **Regional Health Authorities**
- **CancerCare Manitoba**
- **Diagnostic Services of Manitoba**
- **Selkirk Mental Health Centre**
- **Provincial Nursing Stations**
- **Addictions Foundation of Manitoba**

Dear Madam/Sir:

In follow up to the October 2, 2009 letter regarding personal respiratory protection when interacting with patients with symptoms of influenza-like illness, I would like to offer further clarification regarding the use of personal protective equipment, including N95 respirator masks for health care staff in Manitoba.

As we have seen on several issues throughout the H1N1 pandemic situation, new and changing scientific evidence often emerges. Therefore, Manitoba Health and Healthy Living is recommending all health facilities ensure that all staff can access N95 respirator masks and other personal protective equipment in situations that could put them at risk for exposure to influenza-like illnesses (ILI), including H1N1.

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 [.manitoba.ca](http://www.manitoba.ca).

Sincerely,

“original signed by”

Arlene Wilgosh

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