

April 1, 2020

Honourable Scott Fielding
Minister of Finance
Room 103, Legislative Building
Winnipeg, MB R3C 0V8



Dear Minister Fielding,

I am writing today on an issue that is becoming increasingly urgent given the growing threat posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. It is more important than ever that we work together in the spirit of shared responsibility to those on the front line of this crisis.

The Manitoba Association of Health Care Professionals (MAHCP) represents over 6,500 Allied Health Professionals working in health care settings across Manitoba. As you know, our members are currently facing greatly heightened risk to make sure their patients and clients continue to get the quality, compassionate health care services that all Manitobans deserve. Not only have we seen health care workers in other jurisdictions contract the virus while at work, but we are already seeing cases arise among front-line staff in Manitoba. In return, these dedicated workers deserve a basic recognition of that heightened risk along with corresponding protections should they become unable to work due to this pandemic.

MAHCP is therefore calling on the Government of Manitoba and the Workers Compensation Board to provide presumptive workers compensation coverage immediately to Allied Health Professionals and all health care workers who are exposed to COVID-19 and contract the virus. This reasonable and necessary level of protection is not only what our members expect and deserve, but it will also contribute to the strength and viability of our health care system as a whole. Health care workers are putting their safety on the line and they need to know they will be covered if the risk becomes their reality.

We trust that you will answer our call and support these essential workers during this unprecedented crisis by ensuring presumptive coverage for COVID-19. Our members are seeking reassurance at this time and I am eager to communicate a positive outcome. I appreciate your prompt attention to this pressing matter and await your reply.

Sincerely,

Bob Moroz, MAHCP President

CC: Winston Maharaj
Michael Werier