

October 1, 2021

**COVID-19**

**NOVEL CORONAVIRUS**

*Public Health & Acute Care  
Technical Briefing*

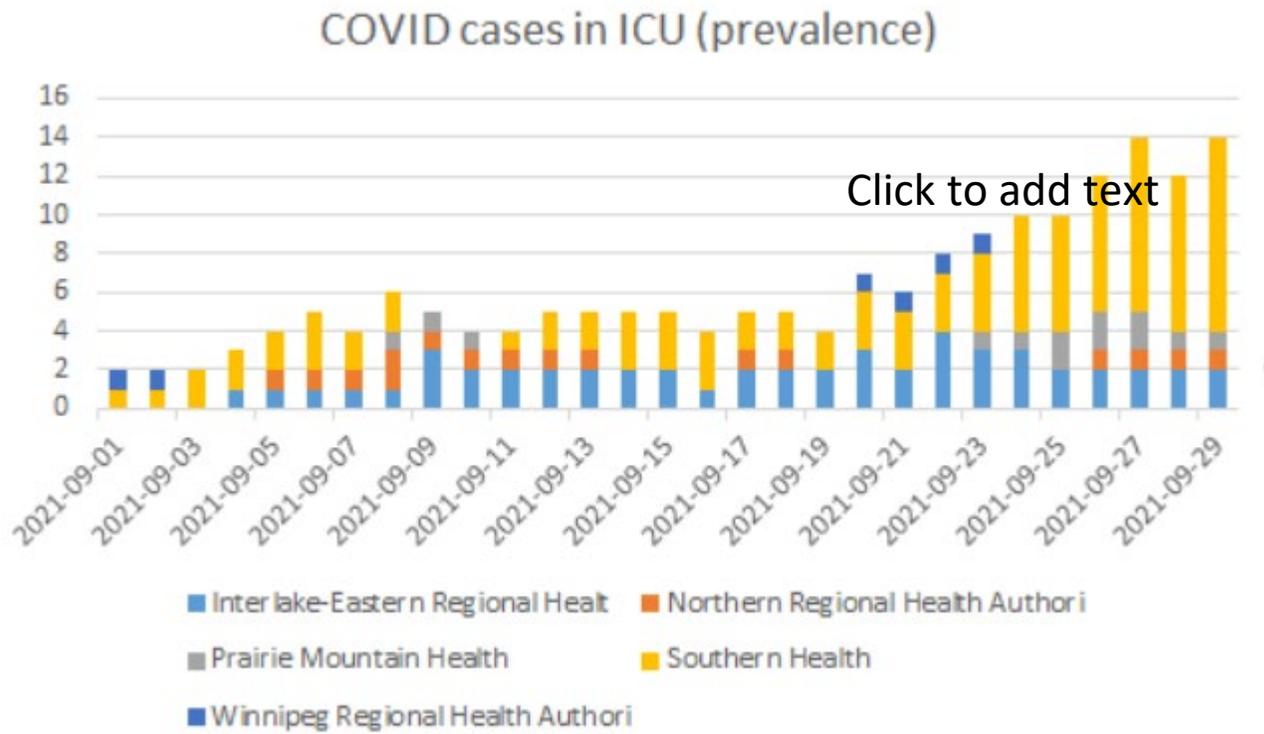
**Manitoba**



## Current Public Health Context

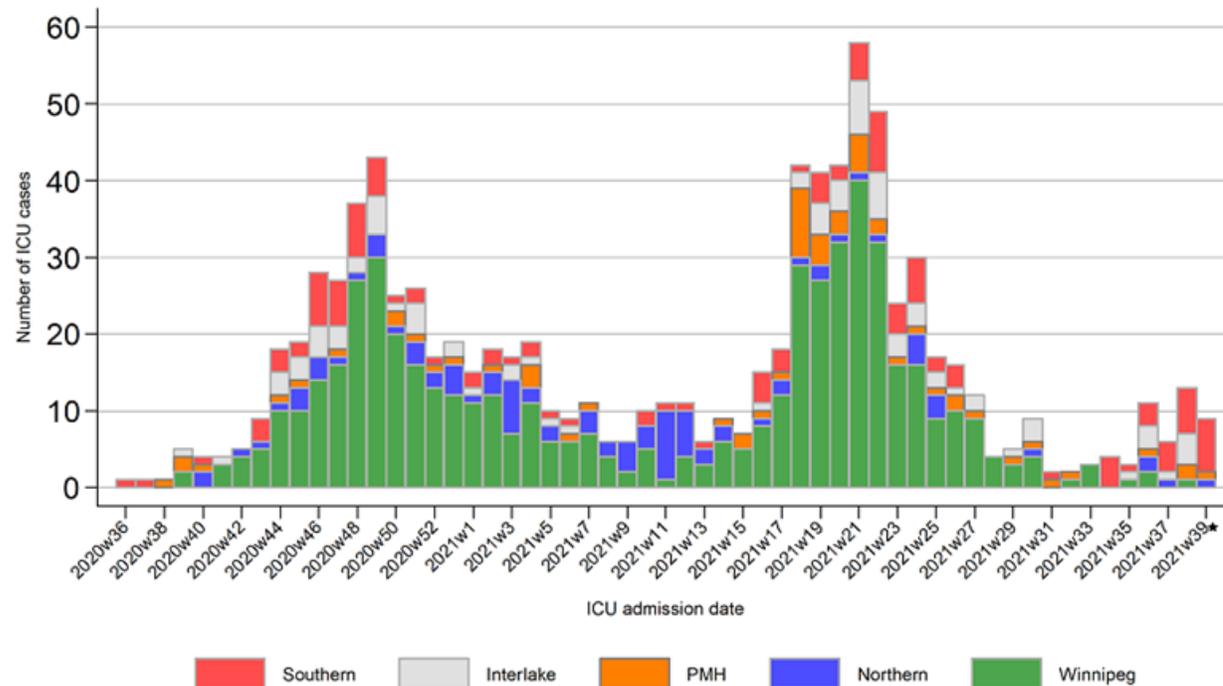
- As of Sept. 29, 80.4 per cent eligible Manitobans were fully vaccinated and 84.9 per cent have received at least one dose.
- But case numbers and hospitalizations are now increasing, especially among the nearly 400,000 unvaccinated Manitobans who can't or have chosen not to get the vaccine.
- Manitoba is clearly at the beginning of the fourth wave.

## ICU Prevalence



- As of Sept. 30, there were 95 patients in ICU, 20 with COVID (14 active cases, six considered recovered but still very ill).
- This is an increase to ICU admission of 17 per cent from one week before.
- Of the 14 active COVID cases, 100 per cent were not fully vaccinated.

## New ICU Admissions



Note: \*Data only up to Wednesday (Sep 29) for week 39

Since August 1, 2021 (week 31):

- There have been 50 ICU admissions.

## COVID-19 Hospitalizations

- Hospital capacity needed to address backlog of care.
- However, Winnipeg hospital capacity already high, and hospital admissions for COVID-19 are rising significantly, up 26 per cent in the past week.
- 83 per cent of Manitobans hospitalized due to COVID-19 (51 of the 86) are not fully vaccinated.
- A significant number of COVID-19 admissions were not tested prior to arriving for care; this includes approximately 2/3 of all COVID-19 admissions to ICU.
- Southern Health (with 15 per cent of the population) is over-represented in active cases, hospital admissions, ICU admissions:
  - ~40 per cent of people in hospital with COVID-19 are from this region.
  - 50 per cent of COVID-19 patients in ICU are from this region.

## What Previous Waves Tell Us

- Less than one new ICU COVID-19 patients per day is tolerable without affecting or reducing non-COVID-19 services elsewhere;
- +One new ICU COVID patient per day is tolerable. However, this will trigger continued contingency planning aimed at reducing the impact to services for non-COVID-19 patients;
- +Two new ICU COVID-19 patients per day will begin to impact non-COVID-19 services;
- +Three new ICU COVID-19 patients per day will significantly impact non-COVID-19 services and may trigger out-of-province transfers;
- More than three ICU COVID-19 patients per day will place the health system at significant risk.
- Throughout the month of August, 11 COVID-19 patients were admitted to Manitoba ICUs.
- During the week of September 19 alone, Manitoba ICUs admitted COVID-19 17 patients.
- Current increase: Two per day, with some variability.

## Planning For Unvaccinated, Untested Populations

- In previous waves:
  - Of every 100 cases, about two people have required ICU care, this assumes patients get tested when they have symptoms.
  - Using this formula, we could also project demands on ICU.
- However, the increased danger of the delta variant to the unvaccinated means the associated impact to ICU admission is not known
- In addition, about two-thirds of people currently in ICU were not tested for COVID-19 until they arrived needing care. Without timely testing, planning is difficult.

## Impacts on Surgery

- ~30,000 surgical, endoscopy and other procedures have been cancelled, deferred or postponed throughout the pandemic.
- This does not include an unknown number of patients who have not sought care due to concerns about COVID-19 in health care facilities.
- While emergency, cancer and cardiac surgeries have continued, wait lists have grown significantly in a number of areas.
- The condition of many patients previously postponed is becoming more urgent.

## Actions Already Taken to Support the Health System

- More nurses have been trained in recent months to support patients in need of critical care:
  - 137 nurses have completed a two-week general ICU orientation course offered between April and July 2021.
  - 67 nurses have completed or are currently enrolled in a 12-week critical care orientation program that will be completed in November.
  - Additional opportunities for nurses to complete this specialized training are planned for this fall.

## New Protocols to Protect ICU Capacity

- New protocols will be put in place to protect capacity at sites supporting patients in intensive care units, as well as those in need of surgery.
  - Patients admitted to a hospital or health care facility for care will be assessed for their individual care requirements.
  - Where it fits, may be transferred to the most appropriate facility in Manitoba with the capacity to meet their needs to maintain ICU capacity.
  - This may mean that patients are medically transferred, at no cost, to a Manitoba facility located outside their home community but within the province.
  - This includes patients who live in Winnipeg.

## Need for Public Health Order Updates to Protect Health System for non-COVID-19 Care

- Impact to non-COVID-19 care for Manitobans will be significantly affected by surges in COVID-19 activity, hospitalization and demands on ICUs.
- Surgical capacity at ICU hospitals (HSC., St. B, Grace, Brandon) is nearly 34 per cent below 2018/19 levels.
- Need to:
  - reflect the increased risk to and from unvaccinated people.
  - be proactive to protect Manitobans and the health care system.
- New orders will reflect the increased severity of risk.
  - New public health orders will allow fully vaccinated Manitobans & those not eligible for vaccination to continue to enjoy as much freedom and as few restrictions as possible.
  - Unvaccinated individuals will now be more restricted in their activities.

## Updated Public Health Orders

- Province moving to Restricted (Orange) level on Pandemic Response System
- Updated orders will come into effect on Oct. 5 and include:
  - limiting households to guests from one other household for private indoor gatherings when any unvaccinated person who is eligible to be vaccinated is on the property
  - limiting households to 10 guests outdoors, when any unvaccinated person who is eligible to be vaccinated is on the property;
  - reducing indoor public gathering group sizes to 25 people or 25 per cent capacity, whichever is lower, for gatherings that include unvaccinated people who are eligible to be vaccinated, including weddings and funerals;
  - reducing indoor group sizes for faith-based gatherings to 25 people or 33 per cent capacity, whichever is greater, for gatherings that include unvaccinated people who are eligible to be vaccinated.
  - reducing all outdoor public gathering sizes to 50 people; and
  - moving retail capacity to 50 per cent in the Southern Health – Sante Sud health region to help reduce the spread of COVID-19 in this region.

Questions?