

As the Emergency Isolation Centre is now in use, many community members have had questions!

Please see the Q&A attached, for information about how the centre works and why it is an important support in our community:

Who would stay at the Emergency Isolation Centre (EIC) and why?

- Anyone who believes they are at risk of developing COVID-19 due to exposure.
- Anyone who is experiencing symptoms of COVID-19.
- A person who may have recently come to the community and has been advised to isolate.
- A person who is awaiting test results and experiencing symptoms compatible with COVID-19.
- Persons testing positive, with or without symptoms, and without a place to quarantine.

The EIC was created to meet isolation needs of vulnerable populations who may not have the resources to isolate themselves for any of the above reasons. Exceptions to this may apply for other populations and are considered on a case by case basis, involving KDSB and Public Health.

How long can someone stay at the EIC?

- Length of stay is based on recommendations, assessments and monitoring by Public Health.
- Each day that a client stays at the EIC is valuable in the fight against COVID-19.
- At the end of their stay, the EIC Staff strive to ensure that clients are supported to safely transition back into the community and that they are aware of infection control strategies such as masks, hand washing and social distancing.

Why does this area need an Emergency Isolation Centre?

- To prevent the risk of a COVID-19 outbreak in our community.
- To ensure that people have support and the resources needed in order to follow infection control guidelines.
- A Centre that offers support, increases success rates for persons needing to isolate/quarantine.
- Isolation has proven effective in the fight against COVID-19.

Are staff working at the EIC safe to be around?

- Staff are screened at the start of each shift and monitored regularly by coworkers.
- Working closely with Public Health, staff follow best practices for infection control and prevention, including use of PPE.
- Staff and clients practice social distancing; there is no direct contact between staff and clients.
- Before leaving the EIC, staff must shower and change into clean clothing. Work clothes are sealed in a bag until laundered.

What should I say to someone who is staying at the EIC?

- Thank-you for keeping my community safe!

Is the Community at increased risk because we have the Centre?

- Having a safe and supported EIC, where vulnerable people can isolate, increases success rates and helps to reduce the risk of a COVID-19 outbreak in our area.
- When people are unable to self isolate/quarantine due to a lack of resources, supports and housing, they may not be able to fully implement isolation/quarantine strategies. The EIC increases success rates for vulnerable persons.

What is a typical day at the EIC like for a resident?

- An intake assessment is done at the beginning of the stay. This involves a brief social and medical history so that staff are alerted to any needs the person may have while staying at EIC.
- Brief wellness checks are completed on a scheduled basis by a phone call to the individual's room.
- Staff offer physical distancing-based activities throughout the day to pass the time.
- TV, internet and phone are available in each room.
- Follow ups by Public Health are completed by phone, the same as it would if the individual was staying at home.
- An individual's stay at the EIC is voluntary.

How do residents of the EIC access medical care?

- Residents of the isolation centre access medical care in the same fashion that anyone in the community would.
- Staff of the EIC can help facilitate connection with the FHT during week days and the Hospital, if necessary, after hours.
- Virtual assessments can be arranged, if appropriate, for non-urgent needs in the same way this would be done for someone in the community.
- Any emergencies will be acted on accordingly and an ambulance will be called if necessary.
- The staff at the EIC are not medically trained, however, they have knowledge of first aid/CPR and have access to an AED and first aid kit.