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# *News Release*

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December 10, 2020

**PROVINCE AND RED RIVER COLLEGE PARTNER TO PROTECT MANITOBANS,  
LAUNCH NEW MICRO-CREDENTIAL COURSE FOR COVID-19 IMMUNIZERS**

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**Encouraging Manitobans to Join ‘Team Manitoba’ to Help Protect  
Their Community by Joining Vaccination Campaign: Premier**

As part of its plan to protect Manitobans against COVID-19, the province is partnering with Red River College (RRC) to ensure people who will administer the COVID-19 vaccine have the opportunity to upgrade or extend their skills with a new micro-credential, Premier Brian Pallister and Fred Meier, president and CEO, Red River College, announced today.

“Our government’s number one priority in the face of this pandemic is to protect our most vulnerable Manitobans, and as early as next week, we will start delivering life-saving vaccinations to our front-line health-care workers in our critical units,” said Pallister. “Manitoba’s health-care workers are already an integral part of our COVID-19 response and we are looking for more people to step forward and join ‘Team Manitoba’. This new micro-credential will help ensure those hired to administer the vaccine can upgrade their skills if they need it, so they can be ready to vaccinate safely and quickly.”

Retired health-care workers, students and others with a critical baseline of knowledge and skills are encouraged to join Manitoba’s COVID-19 vaccine campaign, Pallister added.

The province’s COVID-19 Vaccine Task Force has been preparing for months on a number of priority areas including delivery, priority populations, immunization clinics, logistics and monitoring. Manitoba will be ready to receive its first dose of the Pfizer vaccine next week.

“Our college community has stepped-up in the fight against COVID-19,” said Meier. “They’ve met the challenges this pandemic has given us head on, worked around the clock, and found new and innovative ways to adapt, deliver our programs, while creating immediate, urgent, short bursts of training to keep Manitobans safe. That work won’t stop, and we will continue to leverage our skill and expertise to support our health-care providers – many of whom are grads – who are on the front lines of this pandemic every day.”

Yesterday, the province issued an order under the Regulated Health Professions Act (vaccination administration) to expand the types of regulated professions that can administer the COVID-19 vaccine in Manitoba. The new micro-credential will help ensure they can properly administer the COVID-19 vaccine and help immunize Manitobans.

This eight-hour course, offered at no cost, includes an online portion as well as an in-person lab. Course participants will learn about the virus, become familiar with safe COVID-19 vaccine procedures, learn about immunization and related anatomy, and understand best practices when vaccinating clients. In addition to the online learning component, the lab will allow people to practice and demonstrate their competency in the skills needed to deliver the vaccine safely.

To meet the immediate need to ramp up the province's immunization campaign, the micro-credential will begin Dec. 15 in Winnipeg and will be offered in additional communities in the near future. In order to participate in the course, individuals must first be hired as immunization team members through Shared Health Manitoba.

In addition to immunization team members, the province is now also recruiting Manitobans for a number of positions that will also be integral to the vaccination campaign. This includes clinic managers, immunization clinical leaders, clinic navigators and post-immunization observation team members. To see all available positions available in the province's pandemic response, visit [www.manitoba.ca/covid19/vaccine/jobs.html](http://www.manitoba.ca/covid19/vaccine/jobs.html).

More information about the RRC micro-credential, including eligibility requirements, is available at [www.rrc.ca/vaccine](http://www.rrc.ca/vaccine).

The order is available at [https://web2.gov.mb.ca/laws/orders/\\_pdf-order.php?ord=2020-12-09](https://web2.gov.mb.ca/laws/orders/_pdf-order.php?ord=2020-12-09).

BACKGROUND INFORMATION ATTACHED

# ***BACKGROUND***

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## **PROFESSIONS ELIGIBLE FOR VACCINATION MICRO-CREDENTIAL AT RED RIVER COLLEGE**

These professions can administer the vaccine under their existing scope of practice but could choose to take the micro-credential course at Red River College:

- physicians,
- physician assistants,
- clinical assistants,
- nurse practitioners,
- registered nurses,
- registered psychiatric nurses,
- licensed practical nurses, and
- paramedics.

On Dec. 9, an order under the Regulated Health Professions Act (vaccination administration) expanded the regulated professions that can administer the COVID-19 vaccine under certain conditions.

These professions include:

- pharmacists;
- midwives;
- dentists;
- physiotherapists;
- lab technologists;
- veterinarians;
- veterinarian technologists;
- respiratory therapists;
- occupational therapists;
- student doctors, physician assistants, nurses, paramedics, dentists, medical laboratory technologists, occupational therapists, physiotherapists, respiratory therapists and pharmacists; and
- retired health-care professionals including those who may no longer be registered with their professional college.

Only individuals who have been hired as an immunization provider by Shared Health Manitoba can enrol in the vaccination micro-credential course.