travel health
& TROPICAL MEDICINE SERVICES

Winnipeg Regional Health Authority
Caring for Health

Office régional de la santé de Winnipeg
À l'écoute de notre santé

MANITOBA TRAVEL HEALTH NETWORK

In 1998, the Manitoba Travel Health Network was established through the support of Manitoba Health. Winnipeg Regional Health Authority (WRHA) Travel Health & Tropical Medicine Services, a recognized leader in travel health services within the province of Manitoba, was subsequently tasked with managing the Network on behalf of Manitoba Health.

The Manitoba Travel Health Network is managed by Public Health Nurses (PHNs) and physicians working within the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority (WRHA) Travel Health & Tropical Medicine Services.

- Nurses provide services focused on pre-travel health. Along with a nursing degree they would have a minimum of 2 years of recent, relevant experience and demonstrated competency in public health, primary care / primary health care, population-level health promotion or community development. They must also have completed the Authorized Prescriber Program for Travel Health through Red River College (RRC) with final authorization as a Registered Nurse Authorized Prescriber RN (AP) from the College of Registered Nurses of Manitoba (CRNM) by May 2020. In addition, they are expected to attain Certification in Travel Health™, through the International Society of Travel Medicine (ISTM).

GOALS OF THE NETWORK

- To address the need for provincial standards of travel health practice in order to provide consistent, competent and comprehensive services to Manitobans.
- To continue to support Manitoba practitioners in the maintenance of provincial guidelines for travel health services.

- Doctors in our teaching clinic provide services to post travel clients, who may be returning ill from their travels. They are Infectious Diseases and Tropical Medicine Specialists, with qualifications that include: Fellows of Internal Medicine or Medical Microbiology; Certificates of Special Competence in Infectious Diseases through the Royal College of Physicians of Canada, and Diplomas in Tropical Medicine and Hygiene. They also have academic appointments with the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Manitoba. They accept all relevant referrals.

WHAT WE DO

- Organize an annual learning opportunity, such as a provincial Travel Health Conference or Webinar, where internationally, nationally and local renowned experts present on travel health topics of interest. Information is posted on the WRHA website.
- Develop and maintain an on-line Travel Health Manual for Health Professionals incorporating best practice guidelines. The Manual is a tool for health care providers to help assess health risks of travellers. It also includes country-specific recommendations, information sheets on various vaccines and health concerns, and information on making immunization and medication recommendations. The manual is available free to all health care providers in Manitoba. If you would like to register for access to the manual, please direct your request to the clinic coordinator:

Phone: (204) 940-2538

Email: jshackel@wrha.mb.ca

(For health care providers outside of Manitoba, an electronic version can be purchased for $500. This initial cost includes regular updates.)

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- A Provincial Network Group e-mail bulletin provides imminent travel health advisories, country-specific outbreak information and updates to change in practice by way of new guidelines to subscribing members. To become a member, please contact the clinic coordinator.
- An Information Line for Health Professionals, managed by public health nurses working within the WRHA Travel Health Clinic is also available. Health care providers can receive consultative services for their clients and education related to pre-travel health, immunization and malaria prophylaxis. Calls will be answered within one working day.
- A Provincial Directory of Travel Health Services is provided to Health Links/Info Santé, for the purpose of sharing clinic availability with callers from across the province. It is updated twice a year or as needed.

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

YELLOW FEVER E-LEARNING MODULE FOR HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS ADVISING TRAVELLERS: Recommended that you complete this module through the CDC website if you will be providing yellow fever vaccination in your clinic, or you are a physician requesting yellow fever certification through the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) (http://www.cdc.gov/travel-training/)

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF TRAVEL MEDICINE (ISTM) CERTIFICATE IN TRAVEL HEALTH™ EXAMINATION:
The first internationally recognized credentials in travel medicine which promotes professional development; enhances quality of patient care; establishes internationally recognized standards of knowledge; and recognizes, in a formal manner, individuals who meet the ISTM standards of excellence in travellers' health. This exam is open to all qualified travel health care practitioners, and is comprised of 200 multiple-choice questions, based on a standardized Body of Knowledge for the Practice of Travel Medicine. The Body of Knowledge was developed by ISTM to help establish standards for the practice of this rapidly growing sub-specialty. The successful passing of this exam demonstrates that practitioners have an expertise and a solid knowledge of travel medicine. The Manitoba Travel Health Network endorses this certification for those providing travel health services. Further information can be found on their website at the following link: www.istm.org/

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Clinic information and appointment:
204-940-TRIP(8747)

Information Line for Health Care Professionals:
204-940-2500 OR toll free 1-866-502-7240

Pre Travel Health Services:
OPEN Mon, Tue, Thur, Fri 8:30 am to 4:30 pm Wednesday 12pm to 8 pm

Post Travel Medical Appointments:
OPEN Mondays and Wednesdays 1pm to 4pm (Referrals Preferred)

Recommended Resources:
Please visit our website for links and travel specific information.

visit wrha.mb.ca/travel

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