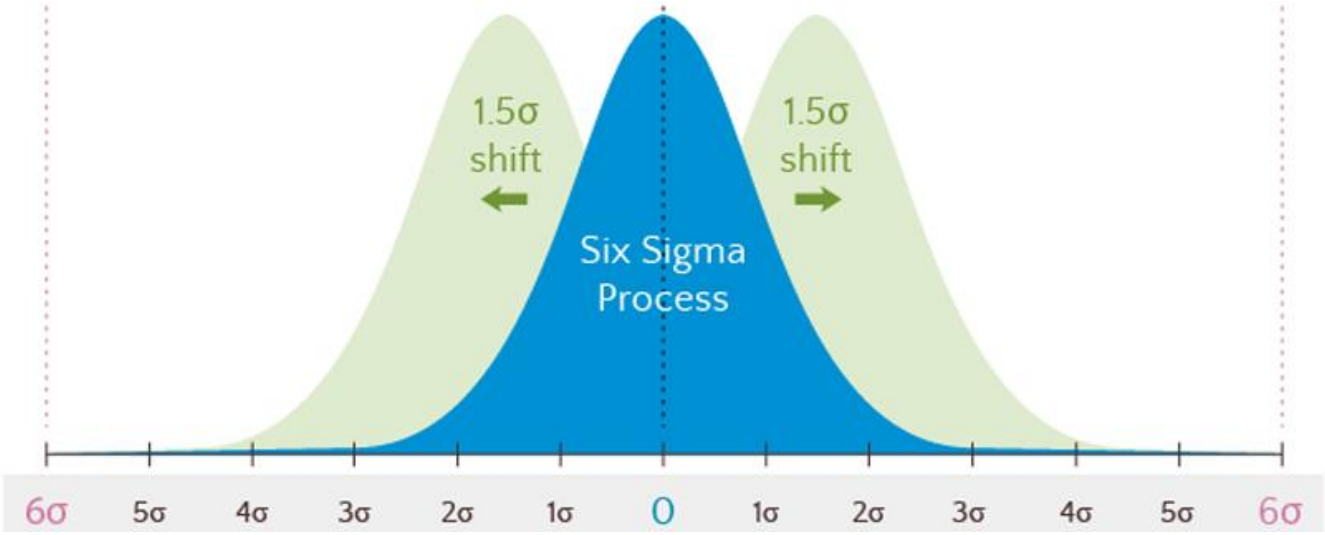
THE 1.5 SIGMA SHIFT

What is Six Sigma?
Sigma or Six Sigma is a measure of variation or how well the process is working. It is said that a process performing at a six sigma level will only produce 3.4 defects (mistakes) per one million opportunities. So, when a process shifts 1.5 sigma, it is a significant change.

What is the 1.5 Sigma Shift?
As the team completes the Improve phase, the change made will have produced some impressive results. If left without any controls in place, any system will tend to slowly revert to a lower level of performance. This is known as the 1.5 Sigma Shift.

How can the 1.5 Sigma Shift be prevented?
By implementing controls to the new process, this shift can be prevented. Every process will have a slight shift to the negative after the event has ended. This is due to the focus of the team shifting.
There are several types of control mechanisms such as visual management, 5S, standard work process and mistake proofing. These types of controls will help ensure the changes made do not deteriorate. *Refer to the Hierarchy of Controls one-pager.*



Six Sigma Analogy

If you played 100 rounds (18 holes each) of golf per year and played at:
6 Sigma Level: You would miss 1 putt every 163 years
5 Sigma Level: You would miss 1 putt every 2.33 years
4 Sigma Level: You would miss 1 putt every 9 rounds
3 Sigma Level: You would miss 1 putt per round
2 Sigma Level: you would miss 6 putts per round

Source: From John Petty, "When Near Enough is Not Good Enough"

Shared Health works collaboratively with our provincial service delivery partners to develop and deliver lean training to staff across Manitoba.

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