

CIRCULAR

Date: October 23, 2020

CIRCULAR NUMBER: COVID-19: 2020-169

To: All FAM Programs (department and funded agencies)

Subject: **Public Health Directive for Northern Health Region and Churchill**

Effective Date Monday, October 26, 2020

Topic: Implications of Public Health Order – Code Orange

Given the rise in COVID-19 positive cases in Northern Manitoba, Chief Public Health Officer Dr. Roussin has issued a Public Health directive for the Northern Health Region and Churchill.

Effective Monday, October 26, indoor and outdoor public gatherings have been reduced to a maximum of five people. While the social services are excluded from this directive, department offices and funded agencies should ensure that physical distancing is maintained wherever possible and that space capacity is adjusted accordingly.

Masks are mandatory in indoor public spaces. This includes publicly accessible spaces such as reception areas of buildings where services are provided.

Note: In addition to mandatory masks in indoor public spaces, all programs must continue to follow Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) directives that are currently in place.

The department has worked closely with Dr. Roussin and Public Health to ensure that additional measures are in place for the protection of program recipients, as well as agency and department staff.

To support vulnerable program recipients, Manitoba Families is distributing reusable masks to its clients. This will include two reusable masks for every adult in the household and for children aged five to nine. Older children are receiving their masks through their school or child care provider. These masks are currently being distributed to FAM clients in Northern Manitoba.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Gerrard
Deputy Minister, Manitoba Families