

**CIRCULAR**

**Date:** September 30, 2020

**CIRCULAR NUMBER:** COVID-19: 2020-146R

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**To:** FAM staff

**Subject:** **Mask Requirements under Restricted (orange) level – CORRECTION**

**Replaces:** 2020-146

**Program(s):** All

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**Type:**  Procedure

**Effective Date** Immediately

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On Monday, September 28, 2020, the Chief Provincial Public Health Officer set the #RestartMB Pandemic Response System level to Restricted (orange) in the Winnipeg capital region.

Current public health orders have made wearing a mask mandatory at all times in indoor public locations by adults and children aged five and older.

This means that all department staff are required to wear a mask in publicly accessible spaces such as reception areas where services are provided. It also means **staff are strongly encouraged** to wear a mask at your desk when talking or working with another person if physical distancing cannot be maintained. We are enclosing additional information about safe mask use and helpful resources.

Many department staff and service providers have already been wearing personal protective equipment since the beginning of the pandemic. These staff follow specific guidelines as part of their job functions, which includes how to wear and the care of medical and non-medical (also called reuseable or disposable) masks. This will not change as a result of the change to the Pandemic Response System.

We also wanted you to be aware that as part of its response to COVID-19, Manitoba Families is distributing reusable masks to its clients, beginning in the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority. 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. In total, more than 227,000 reusable masks will be distributed across the province in the coming weeks.

Please visit [www.manitoba.ca/restartmb](http://www.manitoba.ca/restartmb) to check for the most current information about the public health orders, and which communities are included. You may also visit [www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/updates/prepareandprevent.html](http://www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/updates/prepareandprevent.html) for public health guidance on exceptions to mask wearing.

Sincerely,

**NAME OF PROGRAM OR ADM**

## MASK USE AND HELPFUL RESOURCES

### DO

- DO wear a non-medical mask or face covering to protect others.
- DO ensure the mask is made up of two layers of tightly woven fabric.
- DO wash your hands or use alcohol-based hand sanitizer before and after touching mask or face covering.
- DO use the ear loops or ties to put on and remove mask.
- DO ensure your nose and mouth are fully covered.
- DO wash your mask with hot, soapy water and let it dry completely before wearing it again.
- DO store re-usable mask in a clean paper bag until you wear it again.
- DO discard mask that cannot be washed in a plastic lined garbage bin after use.

### DON'T

- DON'T wear a loose mask.
- DON'T touch mask while wearing it.
- DON'T remove mask to talk to someone.
- DON'T hang mask from your neck or ears.
- DON'T wear mask under your chin.
- DON'T share your mask.
- DON'T leave your used mask within the reach of others.

**NOTE:** This information is available in poster format on the Shared Health website:  
<https://sharedhealthmb.ca/covid19/providers/posters/>

Shared Health, Manitoba Education and the World Health Organization have created helpful resources (print, video, posters) for adults and children about safe mask use and care, including:

- How to safely use a non-medical mask or face covering
  - [English](#)
  - [French](#)
- Wear it well: A mask how-to for kids (video)
  - [English version](#)
  - [French version](#)
- Mandatory Masks Poster: Signage for facilities - [English/French version](#)
- Wearing and caring for masks: [www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public/when-and-how-to-use-masks](http://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public/when-and-how-to-use-masks)