

CIRCULAR

Date: October 1, 2020

CIRCULAR NUMBER: COVID 19: 2020-157

To: **Service Delivery Offices**

Subject: **Winnipeg Capital Region – Service Delivery- CORRECTION**

Type: Information Only

Effective Date: **Immediately**

The government of Manitoba and Public Health have recently implemented the new colour-coded system to allow government to roll out COVID-19 restrictions targeting specific regions, communities or industries in the province.

Following the report of recent new cases in the Winnipeg capital region (see list below), Public Health has elevated the region to the “Restricted (orange) level” which places further public health restrictions on the region.

The added restrictions relate only to public gathering sizes, which will be reduced to 10 people both indoors and outdoors, and **mandatory mask use** by adults and children aged five and older at all times in indoor public locations, as well as at any public gatherings.

This means that all department staff, service providers, clients/participants and visitors are required to wear a mask in all publicly accessible office spaces such as reception areas, elevators, meeting rooms, lunch rooms and any public space where services are provided. For staff, it also means you are **strongly encouraged** to wear a mask at your desk when talking or working with another person if physical distancing cannot be maintained.

If you already wear personal protective equipment as part of your job function, then this will not change as a result of the change to the Pandemic Response System.

According to the Public Health Order of September 28, 2020, people can temporarily remove their mask while in an indoor public place to:

- receive a service that requires the removal of their mask;
- consume food or drink;
- deal with an emergency or medical purpose; or
- establish their identity.

Despite the restrictions on public gathering sizes and mandatory mask use in indoor public spaces, service delivery in the Department of Families remains at the “Caution (yellow) level” and no additional restrictions are in place in services being delivered in Winnipeg and surrounding area.

The attached poster provides information about this public health guidance:
http://www.manitoba.ca/asset_library/en/restartmb/prs/poster-orange-WRHA.pdf

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.

The department will work closely with Public Health who will be assessing the situation and advising the department on next steps should their direction change.

Catherine Gates, Assistant Deputy Minister
Community Service Delivery

List of Manitoba Communities

City of Winnipeg
City of Selkirk
RM of Cartier
RM of Headingly
RM of Macdonald
RM of Ritchot
RM of Rockwood
RM of Rosser
RM of Springfield
RM of St. Andrews
RM of St. Clements
RM of St. François- Xavier
RM of Taché
RM of West St. Paul
RM of East St. Paul
Town of Niverville
Town of Stonewall
Town of Teulon
Village of Dunottar