

# Information Bulletin

## Temporary Visitation Shelters

### (September 2020)

**Background:** The Province of Manitoba is working to ensure that Personal Care Home (PCH) residents are able continue to visit with family and loved ones safely during the COVID-19 pandemic. To accomplish this, the Province will be working to facilitate the placement of temporary visitation centers outside PCH's across Manitoba. <https://news.gov.mb.ca/news/index.html?item=49225&posted=2020-09-15>

This information bulletin provides guidance on expediting the permitting process for these temporary visitation centers. Since these structures are being placed temporarily to accommodate the COVID-19 pandemic, the Department is encouraging municipalities and planning districts to work with those applying for permits and with the Province to find ways to achieve compliance with local by-laws while ensuring public safety.

#### **Key Considerations**

##### **The Structure:**

The temporary visitation shelters are sea containers that have been repurposed and designed specifically for this project. These structures have been designed to meet the **Manitoba Building Code** by registered *professional engineers* and *architects*. Based on this *professional* involvement we encourage expediting requests for permits for these structures.

The following are some facts to help assist Building Officials with permitting:

- Foundations will be designed under Part 4 of the **Manitoba Building Code**
- The **Manitoba Energy Code for Buildings** does not apply to these structures since they are considered a *temporary building*.
- These structures have been designed as a Group D – *Business and personal service* under construction article 3.2.2.60 of the **Manitoba Building Code**.
- These structure will be connected to the existing building by way of a link. This link will have a minimum of a 45 minute *fire resistance rating*, therefore these structures are considered a separate building.
- Life safety systems such as fire alarms and other fire suppression systems are not required to be extended from the existing PCH to the temporary building (sea container)

The Department of Municipal Relations – Inspection and Technical Services Branch - is able to assist municipalities and planning districts with questions regarding these structures.

**The Site:**

Since these structures are being placed across Manitoba, the Province has committed to working with individual municipalities and planning districts to help find solutions to meet any municipal zoning requirements.

Permitting authorities may need to be consider the following:

- Yard requirements (where on the site will the temporary visitation shelter go?)
- Site Coverage (do temporary structures need to be included in the site coverage calculation?)
- The temporary nature of the use (Are temporary uses permitted? Are PCH's a conditional use?)
- Are there any restrictions regarding sea containers/sea cans in the zoning by-law to consider?

The Department of Municipal Relations - Community Planning Branch regional offices are able to assist municipalities and planning districts with these considerations.

**Local Consultations**

Department officials are available to meet with local authorities authority directly, to answer questions and to support them with local approval processes.

For assistance with building permit matters please contact:

Joe Kasprick  
Program Manager – Building Codes  
Inspection and Technical Services  
204-795-2587  
[Joe.Kasprick@gov.mb.ca](mailto:Joe.Kasprick@gov.mb.ca)

For assistance with planning or zoning matters, please contact the nearest Community Planning Branch regional office:

[https://www.gov.mb.ca/mr/contactus/pubs/crp\\_offices.pdf](https://www.gov.mb.ca/mr/contactus/pubs/crp_offices.pdf)