

**Bulletin #2020-24**

*Addendum*

**MUNICIPAL RELATIONS**

**Important Notice to  
Elected Officials and Chief Administrative Officers in  
Prairie Mountain Health Region**

**EFFECTIVE: AUGUST 24, 2020**

**COVID-19 – Municipal Governance – FAQs – Update**

## **Prairie Mountain Health Region: Regional Restrictions under the Pandemic Response System**

On August 24, 2020, Manitoba's public health officials elevated the #RestartMB Response System level for the Prairie Mountain Health Region to **Orange: Restricted**.

The Prairie Mountain Health Region COVID-19 Prevention Orders can be viewed at the following link:

[http://web2.gov.mb.ca/laws/orders/p210\\_2020-08-24\(prairie%20mountain%20health%20region%20covid-19%20prevention%20orders\).pdf](http://web2.gov.mb.ca/laws/orders/p210_2020-08-24(prairie%20mountain%20health%20region%20covid-19%20prevention%20orders).pdf)

### **Mask Requirement**

Individuals are required to wear masks in all indoor public places and at all public gatherings, including all indoor gatherings and outdoor public gatherings of four or more people. Masks must be worn in a manner that covers the nose, mouth and chin without gaping. Face shields are not an alternative to mask use.

People who enter an indoor public place operated by the municipality need to be reminded to wear a mask as soon as possible after they enter if they are not wearing a mask. Posters or written reminders are not generally sufficient for this purpose, which may require additional staff presence for some facilities. Mask wearing applies to all individuals, including staff, when they are in publicly accessible portions of an indoor public place.

Staff are not required by the order to wear masks in areas that are not open to the public, or if a non-permeable barrier (e.g. plexiglass) separates them from the public. However, municipalities should still consider requiring the use of masks in common staff-only areas where people may gather, such as lunchrooms or boardrooms, in addition to other practices already recommended by public health.

Municipalities are also encouraged to have any municipal staff wear masks if they are interacting with the public outdoors or are working together in close quarters.

### **Specific Exceptions to the Mask Requirement:**

People may remove their masks in indoor public locations if they are seated more than two metres / six feet apart. However, people must put their masks back on when they leave their seat.

People can also temporarily remove their mask indoors to:

- Actively engage in athletic or fitness activities, including water-based activities
- Establish their identity
- Act as a lifeguard
- Deal with an emergency or medical purpose
- Receive a service that requires removal of the mask

- Consume food or drink

People who do not have to wear masks include:

- a child under five years of age
- a person with a medical condition preventing them from safely wearing it
- a person who is unable to put on or take off a mask without assistance

### **Gathering Sizes Restricted to 10 People**

Public gatherings are restricted to 10 people, whether indoors or outdoors. Public gatherings include weddings, funerals, banquets, receptions and professional sporting activities.

More than 10 people may attend a business or facility that is allowed to be open if the operator has implemented the appropriate public distancing measures. This includes municipal recreational facilities that are permitted to be open by public health orders.

The Prairie Mountain Health COVID-19 Prevention Orders do not change the permitted capacity of municipal recreational facilities.

### **Council Meetings and Public Hearings**

More than 10 people are permitted to be in attendance at council meetings or public hearings. However, care should be taken to ensure that attendees may be seated more than two metres / six feet apart. Everyone, including members of the public, staff and council members, will need to wear masks if they are in an indoor area accessible to the public. If people are seated two metres / six feet apart in the council chambers or other venue, they may then remove their masks while they remain seated as outlined above.

Municipalities should also consider alternative formats to provide public access to council deliberations without requiring physical attendance. Some examples may include, but are not limited to, livestreaming or teleconferences, and further information is included in the FAQs for all municipalities. Any method employed should provide a comparable level of access to the public as physical attendance.

### **By-Elections**

By-elections may continue in the Prairie Mountain Health Region. However, care should be taken to follow the by-election guidelines previously provided to municipalities, and to ensure that the mask requirement is adhered to by election officials, scrutineers and members of the public.

### **Application to Border Municipalities**

In some municipalities, only a portion of the municipality is located within the Prairie Mountain Health Region. In this case, the requirements of the order should still be adhered to for any municipal facilities that are outside the Prairie Mountain Health Region but that provide services to residents within the region, such as the municipal office or recreation facilities.

# Prairie Mountain Health RHA Districts

