

**Bulletin #2020-29**

*Addendum*

**MUNICIPAL RELATIONS**

**Important Notice to  
Elected Officials and Chief Administrative Officers in the  
Winnipeg Metropolitan Region**

**EFFECTIVE: SEPTEMBER 28, 2020**

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

## **Winnipeg Metropolitan Region: Restrictions under the Pandemic Response System**

On September 28 2020, Manitoba's public health officials elevated the #RestartMB Response System level for the Winnipeg Metropolitan Region to **Orange: Restricted**.

The Winnipeg Metropolitan Region includes the following municipalities:

- |                             |                      |                        |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| - City of Winnipeg          | - City of Selkirk    | - Town of Stonewall    |
| - RM of Cartier             | - RM of Headingley   | - 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. Francois Xavier | - RM of Taché        | - RM of West St. Paul  |
| - RM of East St. Paul       | - Town of Niverville | - Village of Dunnottar |

The Winnipeg Metropolitan Region COVID-19 Prevention Orders can be viewed at the following link:

[https://manitoba.ca/asset\\_library/en/proactive/2020\\_2021/orders\\_so\\_e\\_capital\\_09282020.pdf](https://manitoba.ca/asset_library/en/proactive/2020_2021/orders_so_e_capital_09282020.pdf).

### **Mask Requirement**

Individuals are required to wear masks in all indoor public places. Masks must be worn in a manner that covers the nose, mouth and chin without gapping. 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 who do not have to wear masks include:

- children under five years of age
- individuals with medical condition(s) preventing them from safely wearing a mask

- individuals who are unable to put on or take off a mask without assistance

People are permitted to temporarily remove their mask while in an indoor public space if they are:

- receiving a service that requires removal of their mask
- actively engaging in an athletic or fitness activity, including water-based activities or acting as a lifeguard
- consuming food or drink
- an emergency or medical purpose
- establishing their identity

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.

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

Gatherings are restricted to 10 people, whether indoors or outdoors. Gatherings include weddings, funerals, banquets and receptions, as well as informal gatherings.

More than 10 people are allowed to attend a business or facility that is permitted to be open under public health orders, provided the operator of the business or facility has implemented all the applicable public distancing measures set out in public health orders.

### **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. People may remove their masks while they are seated, provided seating is more than two metres / six feet apart.

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 Winnipeg Metropolitan 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.