

Bulletin #2020-42

Addendum

MUNICIPAL RELATIONS

Important Notice to

**All Elected Officials and Chief Administrative Officers Regarding the
Red: Critical level of the Pandemic Response System**

EFFECTIVE: DECEMBER 11, 2020

COVID-19 – Municipal Governance – FAQs – Update

RED: CRITICAL

Restrictions under the Pandemic Response System

On November 12, 2020, Manitoba's public health officials elevated the #RestartMB Response System level for all of Manitoba to **Red: Critical**. On November 20, 2020, additional restrictions were added to the **Red: Critical** level. On December 11, 2020, the **Red: Critical** level restrictions were extended, with minor adjustments.

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

https://www.gov.mb.ca/asset_library/en/proactive/2020_2021/orders-soe-12092020.pdf

Public Health Orders Impacting Municipal Operations

RED: CRITICAL Level

Mask Requirement

Individuals are required to wear masks in all indoor public spaces. This includes motor vehicles used for public transportation, bus shelters and enclosed pedestrian tunnels and walkways. 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
- 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.

No Gatherings at Private Residences

No gatherings are permitted at private residences. No person may allow another person who does not normally reside in their home to enter or remain in the home.

People are permitted to temporarily enter another person's home for the following purposes:

- health care, personal care or housekeeping services
- to visit a child with whom the parent/guardian does not normally reside
- child care
- tutoring or other educational instruction
- real estate or moving services
- construction, renovations, repairs or maintenance
- deliveries
- emergencies

People who live alone may visit the residence of one other person with whom they regularly interact, and permit that person to visit their residence.

Public Gathering Sizes Restricted to Five People

Public gatherings are restricted to five people, whether indoors or outdoors, except where strict exceptions are met. Gatherings include weddings, funerals, banquets and receptions, as well as informal gatherings.

More than five 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. Information on maximum occupancy limits of public facilities and businesses is available here:

<http://www.manitoba.ca/covid19/restartmb/prs/index.html>

Council Meetings and Public Hearings

More than five 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. 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.

Recreational Facilities, Museum, Galleries and Libraries

All indoor sport and recreational facilities, group sports, museums, galleries and libraries must close.

Municipalities may continue to rent out community centres for activities permitted under the public health orders, providing that the renters follow all relevant COVID-19 guidelines and restrictions in conducting the activity.

Outdoor rinks may open, and hockey and ringette players may practice individual skills and engage in casual play on outdoor rinks. No organized practices, games or competitions are allowed. No more than five people may engage in outdoor recreational activity as a group, and they must maintain a separation of at least two meters from anyone who is not in their household. All warming huts, shelters and dressing rooms must remain closed.

Northern Travel

Travel north of the 53rd parallel and to remote communities (communities not connected to the provincial highway system by a year-round all-weather road) is restricted. There are limited exceptions to this order, including:

- people who live in that region
- employees of critical businesses
- federal or provincial government officials
- health care providers

The related Public Health Order is available here:

https://www.gov.mb.ca/asset_library/en/proactive/2020_2021/orders-soe-12092020.pdf