

Bulletin #2021-36

MUNICIPAL RELATIONS

Important Notice to All Elected Officials and Chief Administrative Officers

COVID-19 UPDATE FOR MUNICIPALITIES

Municipal Relations advises that changes to the COVID-19 public health orders took effect at **12:01am** on **Saturday June 26, 2021** and will continue to be in effect until **12:01am** on **Monday August 2, 2021**, subject to review and possible extension. The current public health orders may be viewed by visiting:
<https://www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/prs/index.html>.

Manitoba has moved to the **ORANGE: Restricted** level on the pandemic response system. In addition, Manitoba has reached the first milestone of the **4-3-2 One Great Summer Reopening Path**. For information about the pandemic response system, including reopening plans, the state of emergency, vaccines, supports and other relevant provincial and federal resources, please visit:
<https://www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/index.html>.

Additional information related to temporary suspension orders, and general guidance about the impact of COVID-19 on municipal operations has been provided in previous bulletins to municipalities. These bulletins may be viewed on the COVID-19 Bulletin page in Manitoba Municipalities Online (MMO) at:
<https://www.gov.mb.ca/mr/mfas/bulletins.html>.

Current restrictions that may impact municipal operations include:

- **Indoor public gatherings are restricted to a maximum of five persons.**

Current orders do not prohibit municipalities from holding indoor gatherings that are required for continued operations and delivery of services. However, municipalities should try to avoid or defer in-person gatherings that would exceed limits established under the current public health orders, unless operationally or legally required.

- **Fire department administration and training may continue unimpeded.**

Current orders do not prohibit emergency services entities from conducting activities necessary to sustaining service delivery. This includes vehicle and equipment maintenance and in-person training. Agencies continuing with these activities must ensure the health and wellbeing of members by maintaining a two-metre distance between all members, adhering to all infection and prevention control best practices, and where social distancing is not possible, use masks.

- **Outdoor public gatherings are permitted, up to a maximum of 25 persons.**

Up to 25 persons may gather in public as long as they maintain a reasonable distance from other groups. Municipalities should take reasonable steps to inform users of these spaces of the restrictions under the current public health orders.

- **Outdoor public gathering limits apply to firework displays.**

If a firework display is being conducted on public property, the 25 person gathering limit applies. Measures would need to be in place to monitor and limit gatherings to the 25 person total. No cohorts are permitted (e.g. multiple groups of 25). If a firework display is being conducted on private property, the 10 person gathering limit would apply.

A public firework display can be either a 25-person gathering or vehicle-based gathering – the two cannot be combined. If the public is viewing fireworks as a 'drive-in' vehicle event, applicable public health orders must be followed. All persons must remain in their motor vehicle or stay immediately outside their vehicle in a manner that ensures that they are able to maintain a separation of at least two metres from other persons attending who arrived in another vehicle.

- **Gyms and fitness centres may open at 25 per cent capacity.**

Municipal gyms and fitness centres may open at 25 per cent capacity, as long as users of the facility are able to maintain three meters of distance between one another and wear a mask at all times. Change rooms should be limited to 50 per cent capacity or to a number that ensures patrons are able to maintain two meters of distance, whichever is lower.

Reasonable steps should be taken to inform patrons of restrictions under the current public health orders.

- **Museums, galleries and libraries must be closed.**

There are no changes to public health orders for these facilities. Facilities are still permitted to be open as cooling centres, when required.

- **Community centres may continue to be open; only those activities permitted under the public health orders may take place on the premises.**

Municipalities should avoid hosting events in these facilities that would violate the current public health orders. Facilities are still permitted to be used as cooling centres, when required.

- **Indoor community, cultural and religious gatherings are permitted at 25 per cent capacity or 25 persons, whichever is lower.**

Community, cultural or religious gatherings, including self-help gatherings, may operate at 25 per cent capacity or 25 persons, whichever is lower.

Exception: Indoor weddings and funerals are permitted to operate with up to a maximum of 10 persons, plus the photographer/officiants, as long as other public health measures are in-place.

Exception: Indoor dance, theatre and music classes may operate up to a maximum of 25% capacity of the facility or five students, whichever is lower, provided that participants and instructors can maintain appropriate distance when reasonably possible.

- **Outdoor community, cultural and religious gatherings are permitted for up to 50 persons.**

Outdoor community, cultural or religious gatherings may operate with up to 50 persons, as long as appropriate distance can be maintained between households. Drive-in services continue to be permitted.

Exception: Outdoor weddings and funerals are permitted to operate with up to a maximum of 25 persons, plus the photographer/officiants, as long as other public health measures are in-place.

Exception: Outdoor performing arts events may take place, subject to approval by Public Health, in controlled access venues if attendance is restricted to those who are fully immunized, and children under 12 years of age who are accompanied by a fully immunized person.

- **Indoor sporting and recreational facilities may open at 25 per cent capacity, up to a maximum of five persons participating per group.**

Individual play, group and individual instruction, and team practices may take place at the facility up to a maximum of five persons per group, excluding coaches and instructors. Different groups using the facility at the same time should not interact with each other. No organized team games or tournaments are allowed in indoor settings under the current public health orders.

Dressing rooms are limited to 50 per cent of normal capacity, or to a number that ensures all persons in the dressing room can maintain appropriate distance, whichever is lower.

Operators should take reasonable steps to inform users of indoor sporting and recreational facilities of the restrictions under the current public health orders.

Municipalities may continue to temporarily re-purpose indoor recreation facilities to be used as cooling centres, when needed.

- **Outdoor sporting and recreational facilities may open, including splash pads and pools.**

Outdoor sports and recreation activities may take place, but groups must not exceed 25 persons. Organized practices, games and competitions may take place at outdoor sporting and recreational facilities. No multi-team tournaments are permitted under the current public health orders.

Spectators are permitted to attend outdoor sporting and recreational facilities, and are not included in calculating the number of participants in the activity. Spectators must maintain distance with other spectators.

Operators should take reasonable steps to ensure that participants are aware of the restrictions under the current public health orders and are able to maintain distance from other participants.

Outdoor pools must limit the number of members of the public in the pool to 25% of the usual capacity and ensure that swimmers are able to reasonably maintain a separation of at least two metres from other members of the public.

- **Day camps are permitted to operate up to a maximum of 20 participants in groups.**

Effective June 26, 2021, day camps for children of all ages may open. The maximum number of participants per group is 20. Joint activities between groups are not permitted and campers are required to bring their own food and beverage, or all food and beverages served at the camp must be individually packaged. Overnight camps are not permitted.

For additional guidance on public health measures, operators may reference the Early Learning and Childcare Practice Guide found at <https://www.gov.mb.ca/fs/covid-circulars.html>. Mask use is required for staff and campers when in indoor public spaces, as per the public health orders. Personal protective equipment as outlined on pages 15 – 18 of the practice guide is not required, but is encouraged for staff if possible. The guidance on documentation beginning on page 18 of the guide does not apply to day camps and is only for Early Learning and Childcare programs.

- **All workplaces must ensure that employees continue to work from home, where possible.**

Whenever possible, municipalities must ensure that their employees work from home, unless the employee's duties require them to be physically present in the workplace.

- **Employers must continue to immediately advise public health if two or more persons working at the same location contract COVID-19.**

If two or more employees working at the same location contract COVID-19, notification must be provided by email to mgi@gov.mb.ca, or by phone at 204-945-3744 or 1-866-626-4862.

If you have additional questions, please contact a Municipal Services Officer, email mrmaas@gov.mb.ca, or phone 204-945-2572.