

Bulletin #2021-40

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 take effect at **12:01am on Saturday July 17, 2021** and will continue to be in effect until **12:01am on Saturday August 7, 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 remains in the **ORANGE: Restricted** level on the pandemic response system. In addition, Manitoba has reached the second 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 25 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 150 persons.**

Up to 150 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.

- **Gyms and fitness centres may open at 50 per cent capacity.**

Municipal gyms and fitness centres may open at 50 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. Operators must also ensure that contact information is obtained from each user of the premises, and that this information is kept for 21 days, after which it is destroyed.

- **Museums and galleries may open at 50 per cent capacity, to fully-immunized persons only. Libraries may open at 50 per cent capacity or 150 persons, whichever is lower.**

Children under the age of 12 who are not immunized may attend museums and galleries if accompanied by fully vaccinated members of the same household only.

Museums operate under the fully-immunized requirement when open to the public as a museum. If used as a private venue for another purpose (e.g. weddings), the applicable orders for that event/purpose apply.

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 50 per cent capacity or 150 persons, whichever is lower.**

Community, cultural or religious gatherings, including self-help gatherings, may operate at 50 per cent capacity or 150 persons, whichever is lower.

Exception: Indoor 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: Indoor dance, theatre and music classes may operate up to a maximum of 50 per cent capacity of the facility or 25 students, whichever is lower, provided that participants and instructors can maintain appropriate distance when reasonably possible.

Exception: Indoor concert halls and theatres may operate up to a maximum of 50 per cent capacity to fully-immunized persons only and children under 12 years of age who are not immunized are accompanied by fully-immunized members of their household.

- **Outdoor community, cultural and religious gatherings are permitted for up to 150 persons.**

Outdoor community, cultural or religious gatherings may operate with up to 150 persons, as long as appropriate distance can be maintained between households. Drive-in services continue to be permitted.

Outdoor weddings and funerals are permitted to operate with up to a maximum of 150 persons, plus the photographer/officiants, as long as other public health measures are in-place.

Exception: Outdoor performing arts events may take place at 100 per cent capacity, 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 that are not immunized who are accompanied by a fully immunized person with whom they reside.

- **Indoor sporting and recreational facilities may open with up to a maximum of 25 persons participating per group.**

Individual play, group and individual instruction, and team practices may take place at the facility up to a maximum of 25 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, with up to a maximum of 50 persons per group.**

Outdoor sports and recreation activities may take place, but groups must not exceed 50 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 appropriate distance from 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 50 per cent 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 25 participants in groups.**

Day camps for children of all ages may open. The maximum number of participants per group is 25. Joint activities between groups are not permitted. 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.

- **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 filling the form located at <https://forms.gov.mb.ca/workplace-reporting/>, or by phoning 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.

DISCLAIMER

This bulletin is written solely for general information purposes. For the Public Health Order based on which this bulletin is written, visit: https://manitoba.ca/asset_library/en/proactive/20212022/orders-soe-07152021.pdf.