

Bulletin #2021-44

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 August 7, 2021** and will continue to be in effect until **12:01am** on **Tuesday September 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 has been moved to the **YELLOW: Caution** level on the pandemic response system. In addition, Manitoba has reached the third 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 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>.

Sectors that may open without restrictions include:

- Indoor and outdoor gatherings at private residences
- Gyms and fitness centres
- Libraries
- Personal services, such as hair and nail salons
- Day camps
- Retail, markets, garden centres and malls

Please note: Masks are no longer required in indoor public settings under the current public health orders. However, mask-use is strongly recommended for those who are not fully-immunized, including children under 12 years old. Municipalities and other organizations may continue to require mask use on their premises for all members of the public, if appropriate.

Current restrictions that may impact municipal operations include:

- **Indoor gatherings are permitted to a maximum of 50 persons or 50 per cent of capacity, whichever is greater.**

Up to 50 persons or 50 per cent of capacity may gather indoors for events such as weddings, funerals, banquets, receptions, self-help groups, and meetings. Dance floors must remain closed, and activities that encourage close gathering and mingling are not recommended.

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.

Exception: Indoor religious gatherings and Indigenous cultural events may be held at 150 persons or 50 per cent capacity, whichever is greater.

Exception: Indoor concert halls and theatres may operate at 100 per cent capacity to fully-immunized persons only. Children under 12 years of age who are not immunized may attend if they are accompanied by fully-immunized members of their household.

- **Outdoor gatherings and organized events are permitted up to a maximum of 1,500 persons, subject to restrictions established in the public health orders. Municipalities should take reasonable steps to inform users of their spaces of the restrictions under the current public health orders.**

Up to 1,500 persons may gather outdoors in public, subject to the following restrictions:

Weddings, funerals, receptions and other private organized gatherings

If the outdoor venue has a capacity limit, the allowed capacity is 50 per cent or 150 people, whichever is greater. For clarity, total attendance may not exceed 1,500 persons.

Dance floors must remain closed, and activities that encourage close gathering and mingling are not recommended.

Outdoor religious services and Indigenous cultural events

Restricted to 1,500 persons or 50 per cent of the capacity of the location where the service is held, whichever is lesser. Drive-in services continue to be unrestricted.

Outdoor fairs, festivals and community events

Restricted to a maximum of 1,500 persons or 50 per cent of the capacity of the venue, whichever is lesser. Events with more than 1,500 people may be permitted with a plan approved by Public Health.

Outdoor performing arts events with more than 1,500 spectators may take place if attendance is restricted to those who are fully-immunized, and children under 12 that are not immunized who are accompanied by fully-immunized household members, subject to approval by Public Health.

- **Museums, galleries and movie theatres may open at 50 per cent capacity, regardless of vaccination status.**

If a facility is 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 sporting and recreational facilities, including dance, theatre and music schools, may open without restrictions on participants. This includes games, practices, tournaments, day camps, rehearsals and recitals.**

Spectators are limited to 50 per cent of normal capacity. This includes other teams who are not active on the field of play during a tournament.

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, including splash pads and pools, may open without restrictions on participants. This includes games, practices, tournaments, day camps, rehearsals and recitals.**

Spectators are permitted to attend outdoor sporting and recreational facilities at up to 50 per cent capacity. Spectators should maintain a 2-metre distance from other spectators whenever reasonably possible.

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.

- **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-08052021.pdf.