

## Bulletin #2021-46

### 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 Friday September 3, 2021, with exceptions to some orders that took effect at 12:01am on Tuesday September 7, 2021** and will continue to be in effect until revoked. The current public health orders may be viewed by visiting:  
<https://www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/prs/index.html>.

Manitoba remains at the **YELLOW: Caution** level on the pandemic response system. 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>.

**Subject to indoor mask requirement and implementing measures outlined in the public health order, sectors that may open without restrictions include:**

- Libraries.
- Personal services, such as hair and nail salons.
- Day camps.
- Retail, markets, garden centres and malls.

**Please note:** Masks must be worn in all indoor public places under the current public health orders.

For certainty, residential indoor and outdoor gatherings are permitted with no restrictions.

For definition purposes, requirements to provide proof of vaccination to participate in certain events and activities generally do not apply to:

- children under 12 years old; and
- persons who can produce proof from the Government of Manitoba that there is a medical reason they cannot receive a COVID-19 vaccine.

**Current restrictions that may impact municipal operations include:**

- **Indoor gatherings at an indoor public place 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, whichever is greater, may gather indoors.

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.

No immunization requirement currently exists in respect of municipal council meetings or municipal facilities, other than sporting and recreational facilities and programming.

Exception: Indoor religious services 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 with attendance restricted to persons who show proof of vaccination.

Note: Indoor gatherings such as weddings, funerals, banquets, receptions, self-help groups and meetings are limited to 50 people, or 50 percent of capacity, whichever is greater. Gatherings are also subject to restrictions established for the venue in which they take place. For example, a wedding held at an indoor venue that holds a liquor license may not exceed 50 persons or 50 per cent of capacity, and must be restricted to persons who show proof of vaccination only.

- **Outdoor gatherings and organized events (such as outdoor weddings and funerals) are permitted up to a maximum of 500 persons, subject to restrictions established in the public health orders.**

Up to 500 persons may gather outdoors in public. 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 500 persons.

These capacity limits are subject to the following restrictions and exceptions:

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 permitted.

Outdoor fairs, festivals and community events

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

Outdoor ticketed performing arts events

Outdoor ticketed performing arts events may take place if attendance is restricted to persons who show proof of vaccination, and children under 12, subject to approval by Public Health.

Municipalities should take reasonable steps to inform users of their spaces of the restrictions under the current public health orders.

- **Museums and art galleries may open if attendance is restricted to persons who show proof of vaccination only.**

Persons attending these facilities must produce proof that they are fully-immunized. Events held in these facilities are subject to facility-based immunization requirements.

- **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.

- **Indoor sporting and recreational facilities, including dance and martial arts schools, may open if attendance is restricted to persons who show proof of vaccination and persons under 18 years old (youth participants) only.**

Restrictions on attendance at these facilities also apply to spectators. These restrictions do not apply in respect of facilities at schools which are used for school-sanctioned events.

For certainty, proof of vaccination is required for indoor sporting and recreational facilities including youth recreational sports.

- **Gyms, fitness centres and yoga studios must restrict attendance to persons who show proof of vaccination only.**

Persons attending these facilities must produce proof that they are fully-immunized.

- **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.

Exception: Outdoor sporting events at which spectators are required to hold tickets must restrict attendance to persons who show proof of vaccination only.

- **Group instructional classes, such as music, arts and crafts, and other recreational subjects must restrict attendance to persons who show proof of vaccination only.**

Persons attending these facilities must produce proof that they are fully-immunized.

- **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 within a 14-day period, 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](mailto: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-09022021.pdf](https://manitoba.ca/asset_library/en/proactive/20212022/orders-soe-09022021.pdf).*