

Bulletin #2021-62

MUNICIPAL RELATIONS

Important Notice to All Chief Administrative Officers and Municipal Emergency Coordinators

COVID-19 VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS AT MUNICIPAL EMERGENCY CENTRES

The Department of Municipal Relations is issuing the following guidance from the Manitoba Emergency Measures Organization. In the event of a community evacuation or activation of municipal emergency operation centres (EOCs), this is to provide guidance to ensure compliance with current COVID-19 prevention public health orders and proof of vaccination requirements for evacuees, staff, and volunteers.

According to current public health orders, restrictions on gatherings do not apply to facilities where health care or social services are provided (order 2(4)). In the event of an emergency, reception centres or facilities that are used to provide emergency relief for evacuees are exempt from gathering restrictions as municipal disaster relief for evacuees qualifies as a social service.

The public health orders also do not prevent the operations or the delivery of services by a municipality providing shelter to evacuees or the using of municipal spaces for coordinating municipal emergency responses to extreme weather events, whether or not such spaces normally are sporting or recreational facilities. While staff and/or volunteers that are working directly with vulnerable populations when providing healthcare or a social service require vaccination, a municipality can use facilities for the purposes of emergency response (evacuees and EOCs) without public health order restriction.

COVID-19 protection measures should be in place to the best extent possible and guidance for infection and prevention control are available in such circumstances. This will not only limit the spread of COVID-19 but also reinforce with the public that their health is of paramount concern related both to the immediate emergency at hand, as well as the ongoing health emergency. For infection and prevention control specific to evacuation centres, please visit <https://www.cdc.gov/disasters/commshelters.html>. The Manitoba Emergency Measures Organization can also connect municipalities with Manitoba Public Health if guidance for a specific plan or facility is sought.

Municipalities may wish to consult legal counsel on matters concerning liability regarding the spread of COVID-19 at their facilities.

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-11122021.pdf.