

Bulletin #2021-XX

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 **Tuesday December 21, 2021** and will continue to be in effect until **Tuesday January 11, 2022**, subject to review and extension. The current public health orders may be viewed by visiting: <https://www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/prs/index.html>.

Manitoba remains at the **ORANGE: Restricted** 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>.

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

For definition purposes, unless explicitly stated otherwise, restrictions on attendance to fully-immunized persons listed below exempt:

- 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 public gatherings are permitted to a maximum of 25 persons or 25 per cent of capacity, whichever is lower, if proof of immunization is not required. Gatherings where attendance is restricted to fully-immunized persons only may occur at 50 per cent capacity.**

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 facilities, other than sporting and recreational facilities.

Exception: Indoor Religious Gatherings and Indigenous Cultural Events

Faith based gatherings are limited to 50 per cent capacity if all attendees produce proof of immunization. These gatherings are limited to 25 per cent capacity or a maximum of 25 persons total if proof of immunization is not required.

Alternatively, gatherings where proof of immunization is not required may be held at 250 persons or 25 per cent capacity, whichever is lesser. The premises must be physically divided into separate areas that contain no more than 25 persons each, with adequate room for each person in each area to maintain two meters of separation from others. Groups from each area must be prevented from coming into close contact with other groups during the service, as well as while entering or exiting the premises.

Exception: Indoor concert halls and theatres may operate at 50 per cent capacity with attendance restricted to fully-immunized persons only.

- **Outdoor gatherings and organized events are permitted up to a maximum of 50 persons in uncontrolled outdoor public spaces. Gatherings where attendance is restricted to persons who can produce proof that they are fully-immunized may occur at 50 per cent capacity.**

Up to 50 persons may gather outdoors in public spaces that have uncontrolled access, or up to 50 per cent capacity if limited to fully-immunized persons only. This includes seasonal outdoor facilities and events, such as a corn maze, snow maze, or ice castle. This capacity limit is subject to the following restrictions and exceptions:

Outdoor religious services and Indigenous cultural events

Restricted to 50 persons in uncontrolled outdoor public spaces. Gatherings where attendance is restricted to persons who can produce proof that they are fully-immunized may occur at 50 per cent capacity. Drive-in services continue to be unrestricted.

Outdoor ticketed performing arts events

Outdoor ticketed performing arts events may take place at 50 per cent capacity if attendance is restricted to those who are fully-immunized.

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

- **Museums and galleries may open at 50 per cent capacity if attendance is restricted to fully-immunized persons only.**

These facilities may open at a maximum of 50 per cent capacity. Persons attending these facilities must produce proof that they are fully-immunized. Events held in these facilities are subject to facility-based immunization requirements.

- **Libraries may open at 50 per cent capacity.**

Proof of immunization is not required to attend a library for the purposes of general library activities.

- **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 fully immunized persons. Spectators are limited to 50 per cent capacity. Games and practices may continue, but no tournaments are permitted.**

Persons who are 12 to 17 years old must produce proof of immunization, or a negative rapid COVID-19 test result from within the previous 72 hours, to attend these facilities. COVID-19 rapid test results must be confirmed by a pharmacist, and may only be used instead of proof of immunization for persons who are 12 to 17 years old.

Restrictions on attendance at these facilities also apply to spectators. These restrictions do not apply to activities at schools that are part of school curriculum.

No group activities besides practice time or games may occur. Participants should come to the facility ready to play, and must limit group time indoors (e.g. in dressing rooms).

- **Gyms, fitness centres and yoga studios may open at 50 per cent capacity, and must restrict attendance to fully-immunized persons only.**

These facilities may open at 50 per cent capacity, to fully-immunized persons only. All persons must wear masks at all times when not actively engaged in physical activity.

- **Outdoor sporting and recreational facilities may open for games and practices. However, no tournaments are permitted.**

Spectators are permitted to attend outdoor sporting and recreational facilities at up to 50 per cent capacity, if proof of immunization is not required. Spectators should maintain a 2-metre distance from other spectators whenever reasonably possible.

No group activities besides practice time or games may occur. Participants should come to the facility ready to play, and must limit group time indoors (e.g. in dressing rooms).

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 may occur at up to 50 per cent capacity, must restrict attendance to fully immunized persons only.

- **Group instructional classes, such as music, arts and crafts, and other recreational subjects may occur at 50 per cent capacity, and must restrict attendance to fully-immunized persons only.**

Persons attending these classes 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, 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 or if you would like to add or enhance existing municipal enforcement resources, 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-12202021.pdf.

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