

### INTRODUCTION:

The Pandemic Response System has been introduced to share the current level of risk, provide public health guidance to Manitobans and explain the range of measures in place to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in Manitoba. Further, Manitoba's Pandemic Response provides detailed, easy-to-understand direction to residents and businesses at a provincial, regional, sector and facility level

The province will update the provincial response level in response to the spread of the virus and other public health indicators.

### SETTING THE RESPONSE LEVEL:

Public health officials monitor key indicators and use the information gathered to guide their recommendations in setting each risk level and responses, including:

- Test positivity levels
- Case number growth rates
- Number of days since positive cases are linked to further transmission
- Contact tracing and the degree to which cases are contained in clusters
- Health system capacity to deal with cases requiring hospitalization or intensive care

For a detailed description of the four levels and what they mean to you, [click here](#) to read Manitoba's COVID-19 Response Level System Summary.

Community transmission of COVID-19 is occurring across much of Manitoba. New clusters are occurring, but can be controlled through self-isolation, testing and contact tracing so they do not spread further. The health care system is currently able to manage COVID-19 case levels, however changes in restrictions and behaviours are required to prevent further level changes.

Individuals in the Northern Regional Health Authority and Churchill must:

- Wear a mask in all indoor public places and at all gatherings (indoor and outdoor).
- Limit public gatherings in accordance with the current response level applicable to [your region](#).
- Stay home when sick.
- Practice social distancing, hand washing/sanitizing and cough etiquette.
- Follow public health guidance on travel and self-isolation.
- Vulnerable people, such as seniors, are encouraged to exercise additional caution.

Previous provisions in place for all other sectors in this region remain in place. Further direction or additional restrictions may put in place by public health at any time.

For a list of indoor public spaces and additional details, including the exemptions related to the public health orders, [click here](#).

### THE MANDATORY USE OF MASKS IN INDOOR PUBLIC SPACES.

A person who enters or remains in an indoor public place must wear a mask in a manner that covers their mouth, nose and chin without gapping. An indoor public space includes:

- any part of an office building where the public has access;
- any part of a retail store or other commercial establishment where the public has access;
- any part of the common areas of a residential building or shopping mall;
- a health care facility;
- an educational institution or facility;

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- a restaurant;
- an elevator;
- licensed premises;
- a motor vehicle used for public transportation, including a bus, taxi , limousine or other vehicle for hire;
- an enclosed place, other than a private residence, in which a private function is being held, including a private club where a member or invited person has access; and
- a bus shelter, pedestrian tunnel or enclosed pedestrian walkway.

The operator of an indoor public place must ensure that every person who is not wearing a mask while in the indoor public place is given a reminder to do so as soon as possible following entry.

Masks are not required if people are seated at least two metres from others, or if there is a non-permeable physical barrier, such as a plexiglass barrier. However, people need to wear a mask at all times while moving to or from their seated position within the indoor public place.

In addition, employees, contractors or operators of an indoor public place do not need to wear a mask while they are in an area where members of the public do not normally have access, or if they are behind a non-permeable physical barrier, including a plexiglass barrier.

People can temporarily remove their mask while in an indoor public place to:

- receive a service that requires the removal of their mask,
- actively engage in an athletic or fitness activity, including water-based activities or act as a lifeguard,
- consume food or drink,
- deal with an emergency or medical purpose, or
- establish their identity.

People who do not have to wear masks include:

- a child who is under five years of age;
- a person with a medical condition that is unrelated to COVID-19, including breathing or cognitive difficulties or a disability, which prevents them from safely wearing a mask; and
- a person who is unable to put on or remove a mask without the assistance of another person.

For more information regarding guidance for proper mask use, please [click here](#).

## **WHAT IS CONSIDERED AN INDOOR PUBLIC PLACE**

An indoor public space includes:

- any part of an office building where the public has access;
- any part of a retail store or other business where the public has access;
- any part of the common areas of a residential building or shopping mall;
- a health care facility;
- an educational institution or facility;
- a restaurant;
- an elevator;
- licensed premises;
- a motor vehicle used for public transportation, including a bus, taxi , limousine or other vehicle for hire;

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- an enclosed place, other than a private residence, in which a private function is being held, including a private club where member or invited person has access; and
- a bus shelter, pedestrian tunnel or enclosed pedestrian walkway.

### **IF MASKS ARE MANDATORY, DOES EVERYONE HAVE TO WEAR A MASK**

There are some exceptions. People who do not have to wear masks include:

- a child who is under five years of age;
- a person with a medical condition that is unrelated to COVID-19, including breathing or cognitive difficulties, or a disability, that prevents them from safely wearing a mask; and
- a person who is unable to put on or take off a mask without the help of another person.
- In addition, people can temporarily remove their mask while in an indoor public place to:
  - receive a service that requires the removal of their mask;
  - actively engage in an athletic or fitness activity, including water-based activities or act as a lifeguard;
  - consume food or drink;
  - deal with an emergency or medical purpose; or
  - establish their identity.

### **WHEN MASK USE IS MANDATORY, ARE THERE EXCEPTIONS WHERE MASKS ARE NOT NEEDED?**

Masks are not required if people are seated at least two metres from others, or if there is a physical barrier, such as a plexiglass barrier. However, people need to wear a mask at all times while moving to or from their seated position within the indoor public place.

In addition, employees, contractors or operators of an indoor public place do not need to wear a mask while they are in an area where members of the public do not normally have access, or if they are behind a physical barrier, such as a plexiglass barrier.

### **CONFIRMED CASES AND CLOSE CONTACTS:**

- Individuals identified as having COVID-19 or a close contact of someone with COVID-19 must immediately enter mandatory isolation/self-isolation (quarantine) until public health officials advise they can end isolation/self-isolation (quarantine).
- Household members or close contacts of a person or persons with COVID-19 must immediately go into mandatory self-isolation (quarantine) for 14 days from the last date of exposure and call Health Links--Info Santé (204-788-8200 or 1-888-315-9257) if they develop symptoms.

NOTE: There may be additional restrictions in force province additional public health orders in effect businesses within your region.

For the most current information on sector based guidance for the current response level for your area please [click here](#).

**Find more COVID-19 support and other programs and services  
for your business at [jointhechamber.ca](https://jointhechamber.ca)**