

# RESTORING SAFE SERVICES

## MANITOBA'S PANDEMIC AND ECONOMIC ROADMAP FOR RECOVERY



COVID-19 Pandemic Response  
July 2020

When the COVID-19 pandemic reached Manitoba in March 2020, all Manitobans made tremendous sacrifices to respond to the expanding reach of the virus and flatten the curve in our province. Immediate and urgent steps were taken to enhance public awareness and implement the best available public health advice across all sectors to limit contact and prevent the spread of COVID-19 while maintaining essential services.

Expert advice and public feedback has continued to guide the progressive stages of re-opening that began in early May. Phases one, two and three saw gradual increases in allowed indoor and outdoor gathering sizes and phased re-opening of restaurants, shops, personal services, schools, post-secondary facilities, child care, recreation facilities, community centres, parks, campgrounds and day camps. In addition, 14 day self-isolation requirements were eased for a wider area of travel within western provinces, northwest Ontario and northern territories. Further detail can be found in the appendix.

Eased restrictions were only possible because everyone cautiously followed rules set out in public health orders and guidelines and being vigilant in:

- two-metre physical distancing;
- regular, frequent and enhanced hygiene practices;
- limited contact, especially when symptomatic; and,
- virus testing.

These efforts continue to contribute to improved conditions. After the implementation of these three phases and two full virus incubation periods of two weeks each, the transmission of COVID-19 remains largely controlled in Manitoba.

Test positivity rates, case numbers and the number of people attending emergency departments or urgent care facilities with flu-like symptoms remain low. Nearly a thousand lab samples are tested daily, and there are low numbers of cases not linked to travel or other cases. Importantly, Manitoba continues to have enough health care capacity to manage any serious COVID-19 cases.

The Manitoba government has also introduced #RestartMB, the province's economic roadmap to recovery from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. It outlines investments in public health preparedness, jobs and economic stimulus to protect Manitobans and their livelihoods.

Phase Four of Restoring Safe Services: Manitoba's Pandemic and Economic Roadmap for Recovery builds on these efforts and outlines additional steps that can now be taken to restart the province's economy by further easing public health measures put in place to address the COVID-19 pandemic.

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*" The hard work of Manitobans has been key to this success. However, this is not the time to let up our efforts. "*

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Many factors, including current research, consultations with Manitobans and the experience of other jurisdictions, all contribute to the decisions recommended by public health professionals on whether further restrictions are required, or further easing is possible. As the situation evolves, Manitoba public health officials will make decisions based on evidence at the time.

**If public health results deteriorate or guidelines are not sufficient, measures may be paused and previous measures may be re-introduced.**



## RESTORING SERVICES - PHASE FOUR

### *Proposed Changes – Effective July 25, 2020*

Proposed updates, outlined below, are in addition to those introduced in Phase One, Phase Two and Phase Three. If changes are not noted, conditions outlined in earlier phases continue to apply, including overall requirements such as self-isolating when showing symptoms and maintaining two metres of physical distancing. Critical services can continue to operate. Detailed public health guidance for businesses is available at <http://www.manitoba.ca/covid19/restoring/index.html>.

#### **VISITS IN PERSONAL CARE AND LONG-TERM CARE SETTINGS**

The goal of the Manitoba government is to support the health and wellbeing of residents and their loved ones. Steps are underway to support increased visitation at personal care and long-term care facilities.

However, it is clear that there are no risk-free options with COVID 19. The virus is still in Manitoba, and residents in these facilities remain uniquely vulnerable. Thus, a balanced approach to visitation is required which mitigates risk of COVID 19 transmission, while allowing for interaction by residents with families and friends so that the risks of isolation brought on by strict, universally-applied visitor restrictions are addressed.

Facility operators are required to communicate visitation plans to residents and their loved ones. Each site and region must develop a rapid problem-solving and appeal process to ensure resident and family concerns related to visitation are addressed in a timely manner. Due to differing layouts and the varied needs of residents and families, each site will need to develop specific plans for enabling outdoor/indoor visitation.

The health system and facility operators will continue to review visitation policies and processes to ensure the safety of residents in these facilities. The policies that are now being extended will be monitored and rescinded in part, or in whole, should conditions require, and rescinded immediately if there is evidence of virus spread or outbreak.

#### **Indoor Visitation**

Each resident or designate can identify two support people who will simultaneously be able to visit the resident's room indoors, for unlimited visitation time. Support people are defined as only those close family and/or friends who have a clearly established pattern of involvement in providing active care and support to the resident's emotional wellbeing, health, and quality of life. These family caregivers will participate regularly in the care of the residents.

In addition, residents/ designates may identify general visitors who wish to visit for social reasons. Although outdoor visits are preferred for general visitors, sites may consider some visits from general visitors in resident's room if the resident is in a single room or required physical distancing can be maintained.

For double and multi-bedded rooms or for other reasons where caregiving or visiting in the room of the resident is not possible, an alternative indoor space may need to be identified.



Screening of all indoor visitors must occur prior to entry. Indoor visitation will be permitted provided that the visitor(s) meets the following three requirements:

- is symptom free;
- wears a mask while in the personal care home (or additional/other personal protective equipment as mandated by the facility); and
- travels straight to the resident’s room without loitering in any common areas or other resident rooms in the personal care home, and avoids touching surfaces in the facility en route to the resident’s room.

A plan must be developed by the facility in collaboration with the resident/designate to determine the nature, duration, frequency, and timing of the visits by indoors visitors (both support persons and general visitors). Family and friends of the residents will be treated with compassion and understanding to accommodate special circumstances. Visitors will be provided with access to basic facilities such as washrooms.

Facility operators will determine when residents can have visits. Operators may implement regularly scheduled visits through a booking system or designated drop-in times and provide reasonable flexibility to accommodate for varied circumstances of residents and families, e.g. family members who work.

For indoor visits, masks will be required.

**Outdoor Visitation**

Outdoor visits are preferred and encouraged for general visitors to help keep the number of individuals entering the facility to minimum. Outdoor visits will be allowed for a reasonable number of visitors per resident (as an example, up to four people at a time, depending on the appropriate space availability).

Based on risk evaluation and clinical judgement and in collaboration/ discussion with the resident/ delegate, the site may be unable to facilitate outdoor visits for certain residents and/or due to inclement weather.

Off-property visits are not recommended given the risk to residents and to the facility associated with unknown nature of contacts, exposure and other required safety measures. However, low-risk activities for residents and families should be supported, such as walks around the property/block.

For outdoor visits, mask use is encouraged.

**FAITH-BASED SERVICES, POW WOVES AND OTHER CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL GATHERINGS, STAGE PERFORMANCES AND MOVIE THEATRES**

*Change: eliminating the need for cohorts and resuming live theatrical performances and reopening movie theatres*

Changes include easing restrictions for faith-based services, including pow wows and other cultural and spiritual events, resuming stage performances and reopening movie theatres.



For faith-based services and pow wows, the site capacity will be a maximum of 30 per cent or 500 people, whichever is lower. Sub-groups or cohorts are no longer required. If preferred, organizations can continue to allow cohorts of 50 people to a maximum of 30 per cent of a site’s capacity, with no cap on the number of attendees. Members of the public must be able to reasonably able to maintain a separation of at least two metres from others, except for brief exchanges.

This change does not apply to social gatherings, weddings and funerals, or other organized gatherings or events. These gatherings must follow public health guidelines for the venue where they are being held.

Stage performances and movie theatres may reopen, at a capacity of 30 per cent of the site’s capacity or 500 people, whichever is lower. Sub-groups or cohorts are not required.

Physical distancing must be possible between individuals, households and small groups of people travelling to the event together. People should stay home and self-isolate when showing symptoms as well as follow restrictions related to singing, musical instruments and dancing continue.

Sites must also address physical distancing in areas where patrons may congregate between shows, performances or acts of a play at intermissions.

Detailed guidelines for these events/locations is available at:  
<http://www.manitoba.ca/covid19/restoring/index.html>.

**RETAIL BUSINESSES AND INDOOR RECREATION, INCLUDING ALL NON-SMOKING SITES WITH VLT LOUNGES, BINGO HALLS, BILLIARD ROOMS, AND OTHER INDOOR AMUSEMENT CENTRES, PERSONAL SERVICES AND THERAPEUTIC OR HEALTH CARE BUSINESSES**  
*Change: allowing the use of non-permeable barriers (e.g. plexiglass) for distances less than two metres*

Changes include allowing closer than two metre/six foot distancing within personal services settings such as therapeutic services and hair and nail salons where a non-permeable physical barrier (e.g. Plexiglas) is installed. Occupancy levels will remain the same as in Phase Three.

Requirements for self-isolating when showing symptoms and physical distancing continue.

Detailed public health guidance for businesses is available at:  
<http://www.manitoba.ca/covid19/restoring/index.html>.

**CASINOS**

*Change: re-opening casinos*

Proposed changes include opening casinos, with a maximum occupancy of 30 per cent of the site’s capacity (including staff).

Physical distancing between individuals, households and small groups of people travelling to the casino together must be in place. Frequent, enhanced and regular cleaning and wiping of surfaces is required. People should remain in self-isolation if showing symptoms.

Detailed public health guidance for businesses is available at:  
<http://www.manitoba.ca/covid19/restoring/index.html>.

## **RESTORING SAFE SERVICES – DEFFERALS**

While Manitoba's response to COVID has been led by evidence and the advice of our public health professionals, success depends on Manitobans being on-side and willing to following public health direction. This guidance reflects the feedback of Manitobans and public health advice to ensure people are comfortable with the guidance provided.

Public health officials will review possible adjustments on a week-by-week basis and make any additional changes based on the public health situation at the time.

### **PUBLIC GATHERINGS**

Any changes to indoor and outdoor public gathering sizes have been deferred at this time. Phase Three public health guidance continues to be in effect.

### **TRAVEL REQUIREMENTS**

Any changes to travel restrictions have been deferred at this time. Phase Three public health guidance continues to be in effect, including 14-day self-isolation requirements for those traveling into Manitoba from eastern and southern Ontario, Quebec and Atlantic Canada.

### **BARS, BEVERAGE ROOMS, BREW PUBS, MICROBREWERIES AND DISTILLERIES**

Any changes to services at bars, beverage rooms, brew pubs, microbreweries and distilleries have been deferred at this time. Phase Three public health guidance continues to be in effect.

## **RESTORING SAFE SERVICES – FUTURE ADJUSTMENTS**

### **K-12 SCHOOLS**

Consultation is actively underway with educators and parents on clear plans for a re-opening framework, which will be announced by August 1, 2020.

### **CHILD CARE SERVICES**

Child care services will continue to be adjusted, particularly as the school re-opening framework is finalized, in light of needs of families while considering public health guidelines. Current guidance is that families who have accessed a child care space under the temporary child care program as a critical service worker or as part of the re-opening of the economy will continue to have access to their current space until August 31, 2020, at which time they will be asked to find alternate arrangements, including returning to their usual centre where applicable in order to support a coordinated process for families to return to pre-pandemic child care arrangements. Child care centres are encouraged to reach out to existing clients to assist with these transitions. All families who are planning to resume their child care arrangements with their child care centre in the coming weeks or on August 31, 2020 are encouraged to contact their centre to confirm these plans.

### **POST-SECONDARY INSTITUTIONS**

Facilities continue to plan forms of reopening with different strategies such as more video-based learning to reduce class sizes to ensure they are able to maintain physical distancing. Institutions will make decisions on the actual level of in-person, on-campus activity based on their unique layout and plans.

### **LARGE GATHERINGS/EVENTS AND PERFORMING ARTS VENUES**

There will be no large gatherings or events without cohorts until at least September 2020.

### **OVERNIGHT CAMPS**

No overnight camps will be permitted in the foreseeable future.

### **TEMPORARY AMUSEMENT PARKS**

No temporary amusement parks will be permitted to operate in the foreseeable future.



## STANDARD GUIDELINES TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF COVID-19 IN PUBLIC LOCATIONS

Common and practical routines can ensure that patrons, clients, visitors and staff remain safe and feel safe in public spaces. This includes:

- staying home when experiencing symptoms, even if symptoms are very mild;
- ensuring people are able to reasonably maintain two metres of physical distance;
- only conducting necessary and brief exchanges within two metres of others;
- applying regular, frequent enhanced cleaning protocols, especially in common areas like washrooms;
- maintaining social (physical) distancing and food handling protocols in workplace areas including lunch and common areas; and
- following individual risk reduction measures found at [www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/prepareandprevent/index.html#reducerisk](http://www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/prepareandprevent/index.html#reducerisk).

## APPENDIX: SUMMARY OF MEASURES IN FIRST THREE PHASES

### Phase One Introduced May 4

#### *Weeks Eight to 11 in Manitoba's overall pandemic response period*

- Retail, hair care and patios opened at 50 per cent capacity or one person per 10 square metres, with requirements for two-metre physical distancing
- Non-contact recreational activities allowed
- Parks and campgrounds opened with physical distancing
- Museums, galleries and libraries opened with physical distancing
- Day camps opened with limited group sizes and no overnight stays

### Phase Two Introduced June 1

#### *Weeks 12 through 14 in Manitoba's overall pandemic response period*

- Indoor gatherings increased to 25 and outdoor gatherings increased to 50
- Professional sports teams training resumed within guidelines
- Outdoor drive-in events allowed
- Child care services re-opened to maximum of 24 children
- Schools opened for limited student assessment and planning purposes
- Day camp capacity increased
- Post-secondary institutions and vocational colleges opened for limited instruction
- Team sports and other outdoor recreational activities allowed with physical distancing
- Indoor recreation facilities allowed at 50 per cent capacity
- Travel to northern parks, campgrounds, cabins and lodges allowed
- Private and public pools, splash pads and fitness clubs opened with capacity limits
- Community and seniors centres opened with capacity limits
- Personal services businesses opened with capacity limits
- Indoor restaurants opened with capacity limits
- Bars opened with capacity limits
- Film production allowed with physical distancing guidelines
- Therapeutic or health care businesses allowed with capacity limits

## Phase Three Introduced June 21

### *Weeks 15 to current in Manitoba's overall pandemic response period*

- Indoor gatherings increased to 50 and outdoor gatherings increased to 100, with increased capacity if sub-groups can be created
- Travellers from British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, the Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut, as well as Northwestern Ontario west of Terrace Bay, allowed to visit Manitoba without self-isolating for 14 days
- Professional sports teams, film productions allowed to come to Manitoba without self-isolating if they self-isolated at their original location before arriving
- Child care services re-opened to maximum capacity
- Schools, post-secondary institutions and vocational colleges to begin planning for fall
- Day camp capacity increased
- Team sports and other outdoor recreational activities allowed with physical distancing
- Indoor recreation facilities allowed at 50 per cent capacity
- Travellers from British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, the Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut, as well as Northwestern Ontario west of Terrace Bay can visit northern parks, campgrounds, cabins and lodges
- Private and public pools, splash pads, fitness clubs opened with capacity limits
- Community and seniors service centres opened with capacity limits
- Personal services businesses opened with capacity limits
- Indoor restaurants and bars opened with physical distancing
- Therapeutic or health care businesses allowed with capacity limits

## [manitoba.ca/restoringsafeservices](https://manitoba.ca/restoringsafeservices)

This document marks Manitoba's continued steps to restore safe services based on evidence and considering the risk of COVID-19 in the community. These steps are intended to minimize serious illness and deaths, while reducing the effects of disruptions on society.

If public health results deteriorate or guidelines are not sufficient, measures may be paused and previous measures may be re-introduced.

This document is current as of July 23, 2020. Manitoba officials will continue to review the scientific evidence and take steps to introduce public health measures and operational steps to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

For current information on COVID-19 in Manitoba, visit: [manitoba.ca/covid19](https://manitoba.ca/covid19)

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