

Public Health Orders and Churches

The full current Manitoba public health orders, effective April 27, 2021, are available here: https://manitoba.ca/asset_library/en/proactive/20212022/orders-soe-04272021.pdf The orders most directly relevant to churches are numbers 2, 19, and 27. The guidance around these orders from public health is available here: <https://manitoba.ca/covid19/restartmb/prs/index.html>. The following is the guidance most directly relevant to churches.

Gatherings

No visitors allowed indoors or outdoors on **private property**.

Current orders prohibit gatherings of more than **10** people at an **outdoor public place**. No gatherings are allowed in **indoor public places** or the common areas of a multi-unit residence.

Drive-in events are restricted to household members only in vehicles and persons attending must remain in their vehicle or stay immediately outside their vehicle in a manner that ensures physical distancing.

Funerals can have **10** people in addition to the officiant under clear COVID-19 protection protocols.

Weddings can have up to **10** people in addition to the officiant and a photographer or videographer.

Food banks and other charities or groups that provide or distribute food or hampers to persons in need may operate if measures are implemented to ensure that staff, volunteers and members of the public are reasonably able to maintain a separation of at least two metres from others while at their premises.

Self-help groups for persons dealing with addictions or other behaviours can hold meetings at 25 per cent capacity of the premise where meetings take place or 10 persons, whichever is lower.

Worship Services

Places of worship can hold regular religious services if a service does not exceed **25 per cent of usual capacity or 10 people**, whichever is lower.

Masks are required for everyone at all times as per the following.

Masks

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.

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.

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 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.

Additional Information

In addition to these orders, Michael Pahl met with other faith leaders in a roundtable with Dr. Brent Roussin, Manitoba's Chief Public Health Officer, on March 11, 2021. In this meeting the following was clarified, and still apply:

- 1) **Sunday schools** may operate according to the protocols for "Day camps" (order 11); that is:
 - a. occupancy in all areas used by campers is restricted to **25% of the usual capacity** of those areas;
 - b. the maximum size of a group of campers is **10** and no joint activities between groups take place; and
 - c. campers bring their own food and beverages or all food and beverages served at the
- 2) All **singers** are to remain masked, including anyone leading from the front