

Public Health Orders and Churches

The full current Manitoba public health orders, effective May 9, 2021, are available here: https://manitoba.ca/asset_library/en/proactive/20212022/orders-soe-05082021.pdf. The orders most directly relevant to churches are numbers 2, 20, and 27. The guidance around these orders from public health is available here: <https://manitoba.ca/covid19/restartmb/prs/index.html#guidance>. The following is the guidance most directly relevant to churches.

Gatherings

No **indoor public or private gatherings** are permitted.

Current orders prohibit gatherings of more than five (5) people including household members at an **outdoor public place**.

Drive-in events are restricted to household members only, and people may leave their vehicle while observing public health measures.

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 **must close to indoor gatherings**. This includes all gatherings, not just worship services.

Religious leaders may conduct services at places of worship so that those services may be made **available to the public over the Internet or through other remote means**.

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.

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 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.