

## Public Health Orders and Churches

The full current Manitoba public health orders, effective July 17, 2021, are available here: [https://manitoba.ca/asset\\_library/en/proactive/20212022/orders-soe-07152021.pdf](https://manitoba.ca/asset_library/en/proactive/20212022/orders-soe-07152021.pdf). The orders most directly relevant to churches are numbers 2, 23, and 34. The guidance around these orders from public health is available here: <https://manitoba.ca/covid19/prs/index.html#guidance>. The following is the guidance most directly relevant to churches.

### General Gatherings

**Indoor gatherings on private property** are permitted up to 5 people in addition to those who reside there.

**Outdoor gatherings on private property** are permitted up to 25 people.

**Indoor gatherings in public spaces** are permitted up to 25 people.

**Outdoor gatherings in public spaces** are permitted up to 150 people.

### Specific Gatherings

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

**Funerals and weddings** can have up to 25 people indoors or 150 people outdoors in addition to the officiant and a photographer or videographer. Measures must be taken to ensure that people attending the service can maintain a separation of at least two metres from people of other households.

**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 of up to 25 persons.

**Day camps** for children [and thus Sunday school classes] are open to a maximum of 25 participants in separate groups. Participants must bring their own food and beverages or all food and beverages served at the camp are to be individually packaged.

### Worship Services

**Places of worship** can open for worship services to 50% of capacity to a limit of 150 people indoors or outdoors. For indoor services, all persons attending must wear a mask. For both indoor and outdoors services, measures must be taken to ensure that people attending the service can maintain a separation of at least two metres from people of other households.

**Baptisms or similar religious ceremonies** can be held under general gathering guidelines (above).

## **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.