

Public Health Orders and Churches

The full current Manitoba public health orders, effective August 28, 2021, are available here: https://manitoba.ca/asset_library/en/proactive/20212022/orders-soe-08272021.pdf. The orders most directly relevant to churches are numbers 1-5, 16, and 22. 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.

Gatherings

Indoor weddings, funerals, or other organized gatherings may take place if the number of persons attending does not exceed 50 persons or 50% of the capacity of the premises, whichever is greater.

Outdoor weddings, funerals, or other organized gatherings cannot exceed the lesser of (a) 1,500 persons; or (b) 50% of the capacity of the location where the wedding or funeral is conducted or 150 persons, whichever is greater.

Indoor banquets or receptions must not exceed 50 persons or 50% of the capacity of the premises, whichever is greater. **Outdoor banquets or receptions** must not exceed the lesser of (a) 1,500 persons; or (b) 50% of the capacity of the location where the wedding or funeral is conducted or 150 persons, whichever is greater.

Facilities open to the public must implement measures to ensure that members of the public are reasonably able to maintain a separation of at least two metres from other members of the public at the facility.

There are no other *general* restrictions on indoor or outdoor gatherings on either private or public property. For other restrictions on specific types of gatherings, see the public health orders above. It is strongly recommended that unvaccinated persons wear masks in gatherings, especially indoors.

Worship Services

Indoor religious services must not exceed 150 persons or 50% of the capacity of the premises, whichever is greater. Measures must be implemented to ensure that persons attending the service are reasonably able to maintain a separation of at least two metres from other persons at the service, other than persons who reside at the same private residence.

Outdoor religious services must not exceed 1,500 persons or 50% of the capacity of the location where the service is held, whichever is lesser. Measures must be implemented to ensure that persons attending the service are reasonably able to maintain a separation of at least two metres from other persons at the service, other than persons who reside at the same private residence.

Mask Use

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 practicable.

Those exempt from wearing masks in indoor public spaces include:

- children under five years of age;
- those 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;
- those who are unable to put on or remove a mask without the assistance of another person;
- those who are swimming or engaged in other athletic activities;
- those who need to temporarily remove their mask while in the indoor public place for the purpose of (i) receiving a service that requires the removal of their mask, (ii) consuming food or drink, (iii) an emergency or medical purpose, or (iv) establishing their identity.