

## Public Health Orders and Churches

The full current Manitoba public health orders, effective September 3, 2021, are available here: [https://manitoba.ca/asset\\_library/en/proactive/20212022/orders-soe-09022021.pdf](https://manitoba.ca/asset_library/en/proactive/20212022/orders-soe-09022021.pdf). The orders most directly relevant to churches are numbers 1-5, 20, and 27. 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

**General indoor gatherings (including weddings, funerals, and other similar religious services)** 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.

**General outdoor gatherings (including weddings, funerals, and other similar religious services)** cannot exceed the lesser of (a) 1,500 persons before September 7, or 500 persons on or after that date; or (b) 50% of the capacity of the location or 150 persons, whichever is greater.

If the operator of a facility becomes aware that two or more persons working at the same location at the facility have contracted COVID-19, the operator must immediately notify the chief provincial public health officer and provide information respecting the location of the business or facility and the cases.

### Worship Services

**Indoor religious services** must not exceed 150 persons or 50% of the capacity of the premises, whichever is greater.

**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 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.