

Public Health Orders and Churches

The full current Manitoba public health orders, effective November 13, 2021, are available here: https://www.manitoba.ca/asset_library/en/proactive/20212022/orders-soe-11122021.pdf. The orders most directly relevant to churches are numbers 1-6, 21, and 26-28. The guidance around these orders from public health is available here: <https://manitoba.ca/covid19/prs/index.html#guidance>. The following is the information most directly relevant to churches.

General Gatherings

There are no restrictions on gathering sizes on **indoor or outdoor private property** (including weddings and funerals) in which all in attendance can produce proof of vaccination, can produce proof of medical exemption from vaccination from the Government of Manitoba, or are under 12 years of age.

If anyone is present who is 12 years of age or older and cannot produce proof of vaccination or proof of medical exemption from vaccination from the Government of Manitoba, then:

- for **indoor private residences**, only occupants of one other residence are permitted;
- for **outdoor private property**, no more than ten other persons beyond the resident household are permitted.

There are no restrictions on gathering sizes on **indoor or outdoor public property** (including weddings and funerals) in which all in attendance can produce proof of vaccination, can produce proof of medical exemption from vaccination from the Government of Manitoba, or are under 12 years of age. Mask use is required indoors.

If anyone is present who is 12 years of age or older and cannot produce proof of vaccination or proof of medical exemption from vaccination from the Government of Manitoba, then:

- for **indoor public gatherings**, the number of persons attending cannot exceed 25 persons or 25% of the usual capacity of the premises, whichever is lower;
- for **outdoor public gatherings**, no more than 50 persons are permitted.

It is up to the owner of the property or operator of the facility to ensure that only those specified persons are permitted to enter or remain on the property or in the facility.

Worship Services

There are no restrictions on gathering sizes for **indoor or outdoor worship services** in which all in attendance can produce proof of vaccination, can produce proof of medical exemption from vaccination from the Government of Manitoba, or are under 12 years of age. Mask use is required indoors.

If anyone is present who is 12 years of age or older and cannot produce proof of vaccination or proof of medical exemption from vaccination from the Government of Manitoba, then:

- for **indoor services in the Southern Health region** (except for municipalities of Cartier, Headingley, Macdonald, Niverville, Ritchot, St. François Xavier, and Taché), the number of persons attending cannot exceed 25 persons, or physically separate cohorts of 25 persons up to 25% of the usual capacity of the premises to a maximum of 250 people; and 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;

- for **indoor services outside of the Southern Health region** (and in the exceptions noted above), the number of persons attending cannot exceed 25 persons or 33% of the usual capacity of the premises, whichever is greater; and 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;
- for **outdoor services**, the number of persons attending cannot exceed 50 persons; and 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.