

## Public Health Orders and Churches

The full current Manitoba public health orders, effective December 28, 2021, are available here: [https://www.manitoba.ca/asset\\_library/en/proactive/20212022/orders-soe-12272021.pdf](https://www.manitoba.ca/asset_library/en/proactive/20212022/orders-soe-12272021.pdf). The orders most directly relevant to churches are numbers 1-6, 21, and 27-29. 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

If everyone present who is 12 years of age or older *can* produce proof of vaccination or proof of medical exemption from vaccination from the Government of Manitoba, then:

- for **indoor private residences**, no more than ten other persons beyond the resident household are permitted;
- for **outdoor private property**, no more than twenty other persons beyond the resident household are permitted.

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**, no more than five other persons beyond the resident household are permitted;
- for **outdoor private property**, no more than ten other persons beyond the resident household are permitted.

If everyone present who is 12 years of age or older *can* produce proof of vaccination or proof of medical exemption from vaccination from the Government of Manitoba, then, for **indoor and outdoor public gatherings**, the number of persons attending cannot exceed 50% of the usual capacity of the premises or area or 250 persons, whichever is lesser.

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

If everyone present who is 12 years of age or older *can* produce proof of vaccination or proof of medical exemption from vaccination from the Government of Manitoba, then, for **indoor and outdoor services**, the number of persons attending cannot exceed 50% of the usual capacity of the premises or area or 250 persons, whichever is lesser.

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**, the number of persons attending cannot exceed 25 persons or 25% of the usual capacity of the premises, whichever is lesser; *or*, the premises are physically divided into separate areas for no more than 25 persons, up to a total of 250 persons or 25% of the usual capacity of the premises, whichever is lesser; 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.

**Weddings, funerals, and other similar religious services** are subject to the requirements for indoor and outdoor gatherings above.

## **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.