

# HSC MB Gathering Size Update



## Eastern MB Health Measures Elevated

The province elevated the Pandemic Response System level for Winnipeg and surrounding municipalities to Restricted (Orange) effective September 28. So beginning Monday, September 28th, **gathering sizes will be restricted to 10 and face masks will be mandatory in public places in this region.** These changes will impact our communal activities and appropriate adjustments will have to be made when working in groups indoors or outdoors. It also impacts weddings, funerals, as well as informal gatherings.

The regions targeted by these new increased restrictions include many Hutterite colonies as can be noted in the list of regions below.

- City of Winnipeg;
- City of Selkirk;
- Town of Stonewall;
- Rural Municipality (RM) of Cartier;
- RM of Headingley;
- RM of Macdonald;
- RM of Ritchot;
- RM of Rockwood;
- RM of Rosser;
- RM of Springfield;
- RM of St. Andrews;
- RM of St. Clements;
- RM of St. François Xavier;
- RM of Taché;
- RM of West St. Paul;
- RM of East St. Paul;
- Town of Niverville; and
- Village of Dunnottar.

Individuals in the named regions above must:

- Wear a mask in all indoor public places.
- Limit gatherings to a maximum of 10 people indoors and outdoors.
- Stay home when sick.
- Practice social distancing, hand washing/sanitizing and cough etiquette.
- Follow public health guidance on travel and self-isolation.
- Vulnerable people, such as seniors, are encouraged to exercise additional caution.

## Churches

Gathering sizes for church services do not change with this public health order, but remain capped at 30% of normal capacity and physical distancing for non-family members apply. This means that a building that normally holds 300 people can safely seat up to 90 people as long as they are physically distanced. The building needs to be physically divided into separate areas which contain no more than 50 persons each. In our churches, the center aisle can be thought of as a physical barrier.

## **Dining Halls**

Currently, the province treats dining halls as restaurants and buffet-style self-serving is not allowed by the Public Health Order. Instead, HSC encourages communities to assign a team of servers to serve all food or dish out the food to the community members. This prevents potential spread because only the servers touch the serving utensils.

Further, people lining up for food, must maintain 6 feet of physical distancing. Seating arrangements must be such that groups of tables are 6 feet apart from other tables and fixed table groupings must be maintained.

## **Gathering Sizes larger than 10 (Weddings, Funerals, Other Gatherings)**

Gatherings involving more than 10 persons may take place if

(a) the number of persons attending does not exceed 30% of the usual capacity of the place or premises where the gathering is held;

(b) the place or premises where the gathering is held is physically divided into separate areas which contain no more than 10 persons each; and

(c) persons in each area are prevented from coming into close proximity with persons in another area during the gathering as well as when entering or leaving.

## **Schools**

This new Public Health Order does not impact schools since schools already have strict guidelines in place which must continue to be followed.

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We urge all our communities to participate fully with MB Public Health. Public Health has pledged to work with all communities to provide information and education and opportunities to conform with Public Health Orders, even allowing HSC the opportunity to help out and support communities, before reverting to other measures, such as publishing the names of non-compliant communities.

Please continue to practice the fundamentals such as regular handwashing, physical distancing and proper cough etiquette as well as wearing a mask when physical distancing isn't possible.

Let's collectively do our part to stop COVID.

HSC COVID-19 Taskforce