

March 5, 2021

MANITOBBANS' REOPENING PRIORITIES FORM BASIS FOR NEW PUBLIC HEALTH ORDERS, EFFECTIVE MARCH 5 AT 12:01 A.M.

Backgrounder - [Background Information \(click here\)](#)

Following a request for public feedback on a variety of proposed changes to the current public health orders, the Manitoba government is moving forward to reopen some activities and services while ensuring protecting Manitoba's most vulnerable citizens and the health-care system remains the top priority.

The following changes will go into effect March 5 at 12:01 a.m. and will expire on March 25:

- **Households and Gatherings:**

Households can choose one of the following:

- Continue designating two visitors to their home; or
Designating a second household so that two households can visit each other, as long as everyone in the house has authorized those designated individuals to visit.
- Gathering limits at an outdoor public or private place to increase to 10 people including for outdoor non-organized sport or recreation activities; and
- Places of worship to have increased capacity size of 25 per cent or 100 people, whichever is lower, with physical distancing measures in place and mask requirements.

Business, retail and restaurants:

- Any types of business to be able to operate with the exception of indoor theatres, indoor concert halls, casinos and bingo halls;
- Retail stores, malls and personal services to have increased capacity limits of up to 50 per cent or 250 people, whichever is lower, with other public health measures still in effect;
- Restaurants and licensed premises to have increased capacity limits of up to 50 per cent, with the requirement for tables to sit with only household members, and other public health measures still in effect;
- Businesses other than casinos to resume operating video lottery terminals, with physical distancing measures and barriers in place; and
- Professional theatre groups, dance companies, symphonies and operas to resume rehearsals that are not accessible to members of the public.

- **Recreation and fitness:**

- Day camps for children to operate at 25 per cent capacity with other public health measures in place;
- Indoor recreation and sporting facilities such as gyms, fitness centres, rinks, courts, fields, ranges, studios, clubs, pools and centres to open at 25 per cent

total capacity, with public health measures in place including for spectators, common areas and locker rooms. The requirement to provide one-on-one instructions has been removed;

Gym, fitness centre and pool users must continue to wear a mask while working out and in all other areas of the facility, with the exception of while in a swimming pool;

Dance, theatre and music facilities to open for a total capacity of 25 per cent;

Indoor recreational facilities such as arcades, go-kart tracks and children's facilities to open at 25 per cent capacity with physical distancing measures in place.

Since February 25, nearly 27,000 responses were provided on the proposed changes to the orders. Feedback indicated:

- 95 per cent of Manitobans feel somewhat or very comfortable shopping at a stand-alone store;
- 81 per cent of Manitobans feel somewhat or very comfortable shopping at a mall; and
- 74 per cent of Manitobans feel somewhat or very comfortable going to restaurants.

Feedback on specific changes showed:

- Households and Gatherings:
 - 56 per cent of Manitobans thought increasing outdoor gathering limits to 10 people was an appropriate next step; and
 - 40 per cent of Manitobans thought allowing households the choice of continuing to designate two visitors to their home, or to designate a second household to visit each other was an appropriate next step.
- Business, retail and restaurants: enabling any type of business to operate with the exception of indoor theatres, indoor concert halls, casino and bingo halls was ranked as the highest priority, with a 50 per cent capacity limit for restaurants and licensed premises ranked second and 50 per cent capacity for retail stores, malls and personal services ranked third.
- Recreation and fitness: allowing indoor recreation and sporting facilities such as gyms, fitness centres, rinks, courts, etc. to open at 25 per cent capacity for group instruction was ranked as the highest priority, with day camps for children at 25 per cent capacity ranked second and group instructions or classes in gyms and fitness centres at 25 per cent capacity ranked third.
- Mask use: 35 per cent of the public agreed allowing users of gyms, fitness centres and pools to not wear a mask while taking part in a physical activity was an appropriate next step, while 39 per cent of Manitobans felt it was too fast.

Results of public feedback gathered will be posted on the EngageMB website once completed.

The Province of Manitoba is the authority on COVID-19. Please continue to visit their website daily for updates.

Click [HERE](#) to visit the Province of Manitoba COVID-19 website.

Click [HERE](#) for current information on the #RestartMB Pandemic Response System.

Click [HERE](#) to view the Province of Manitoba's Media Releases on COVID-19.

Click [HERE](#) for the online assessment tool, and [HERE](#) for COVID-19 symptoms.

For Rural Municipality updates, click [HERE](#) to visit Rural Municipality of Rosser's Coronavirus (COVID-19) Community Notice.