

## **NEW PUBLIC HEALTH ORDERS REQUIRING MASKS PROVINCE-WIDE TO COME INTO EFFECT AUG. 28**

New public health orders are being implemented that will require masks in indoor public places province-wide, including schools, effective Aug. 28, Health and Seniors Care Minister Audrey Gordon announced today.

“The emergence of the delta variant has changed things significantly. Now, public health officials tell us the pandemic is one of the unimmunized and we must take steps to protect Manitobans, especially the nearly 230,000 children who are not yet eligible for immunization,” said Gordon. “We will be introducing these measures tomorrow to help protect people across the province and to ensure the health-care system is not overwhelmed by a fourth wave of COVID-19.”

The measures for mask use in indoor public spaces province-wide come into effect at 12:01 a.m. on **Aug. 28**. In addition, the province has developed new requirements for people to be fully immunized to participate in certain events and activities. These requirements will come into effect by public health order **on Sept. 3** for all health regions and will include:

- indoor and outdoor ticketed sporting events and concerts;
- indoor theatre/dance/symphony events;
- restaurants (indoor and patio dining);
- nightclubs and all other licensed premises;
- casinos, bingo halls and VLT lounges;
- movie theatres;
- fitness centres, gyms and indoor sporting and recreational facilities (excluding youth recreational sport); and
- organized indoor group recreational classes and activities, and indoor recreational businesses.

Children 11 and under who are not eligible to be immunized will be able to attend events and activities with a fully-immunized adult.

Future orders will also require all designated provincial public service workers who have ongoing contact with vulnerable populations, especially children, to be fully immunized. These individuals will need to receive their first dose by Sept. 7 and their second dose by Oct. 17 to be fully immunized by Oct. 31. Designated employees who are not fully immunized or cannot provide proof of vaccination will need to undergo regular COVID-19 testing, up to three times a week for full-time employees, and provide proof of a negative test result before they can resume working.

Roussin said these public health orders will help reduce the need for more stringent public health restrictions and lockdowns in the coming weeks.

“Ensuring that people are fully-immunized before attending higher-risk events, activities and

services will help reduce community spread of the virus,” said Roussin. “Already, we are seeing more of the newly-identified cases are in people who have not yet been immunized, and we need to take these steps to protect them, others in their communities and the health-care system from the effects of the delta variant.”

Roussin again noted that public health officials recommend that private businesses and organizations follow the province’s lead and consider mandating COVID-19 vaccination for their employees to protect their customers and staff, and to reduce the chance of an outbreak at their workplaces.

For more information on how to book a vaccine appointment, visit [www.protectmb.ca/](http://www.protectmb.ca/).

**Public Health Orders effective August 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

[https://manitoba.ca/asset\\_library/en/proactive/20212022/orders-soe-08272021.pdf](https://manitoba.ca/asset_library/en/proactive/20212022/orders-soe-08272021.pdf)