

Hi everyone,

With another week of increasingly low case numbers, it's beginning to look like the tide is turning in our favour. It appears COVID-19 recoveries are now more frequent than active cases. This is certainly good news for all of us here in Flin Flon. It is because of these successes that the Manitoba provincial government has begun to move onto phase 2 of our gradual reopening transition.

As of today, public gathering sizes have been increased to 25 people for indoor spaces and 50 people for outdoor spaces, so long as social distancing measures are still being practiced. With that in mind, please remember that we are still not "back to normal" as we once knew. Social distancing measures, public gathering limitations, and frequent proper handwashing are part of a new normal for the foreseeable future. As long as we keep following these measures and remain cautious, yet diligent we will continue to see a further loosening of restrictions much like we've all earned today.

Another change noted by the updated Public health Order is that outdoor visitations are now allowed at personal care homes, meaning many of us can finally visit our loved ones in person for the first time in quite a long time. If you do visit your loved ones at a care home, please be extremely cautious of the surfaces you've touched before visiting them and only visit if you're absolutely certain you're not experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19. These are the most vulnerable people of our community and we must ensure their safety at all costs. Visitations will have to be arranged by the care homes themselves, so be sure to call ahead before arriving to the care facility; this gives staff the opportunity to optimize public safety for everyone upon your arrival.

There is also additional talk from the provincial government to loosen restrictions in the near future (a detailed document of Manitoba's re-opening approach can be found on engage.mb.ca). While I'm sure all of us would like to see every service restored today, we must be patient and follow the advice of our provincial public health officials. Public safety must always be in the forefront.

Keep up the hard work Flin Flon, we've all certainly earned these loosening of restrictions today and now is not the time to revert back to old habits. The longer we can come together by staying apart, the less likely we are to be put in this spot again! Let's continue to show the rest of the province we northerners have what it takes to beat COVID!

In the meantime stay safe, stay strong, and stay healthy Flin Flon