

COVID-19 State of Emergency and Public Health Orders FAQs

General

1. Why did the Manitoba government declare a state of emergency?

The Manitoba government declared a province-wide state of emergency under The Emergency Measures Act on March 20, 2020, to protect the health and safety of all Manitobans and reduce the spread of Covid-19.

2. What powers does the Manitoba government have after declaring a state of emergency?

The declaration enables the government to act quickly on a broad range of supportive measures to stop the spread of Covid-19. This includes issuing orders under The Public Health Act.

3. How long will the state of emergency remain in effect?

The state of emergency was issued March 20, 2020, for a period of 30 days and can be extended if necessary.

4. What is the difference between a state of emergency and a public health order?

A state of emergency allows the government to take quick action to support Manitobans when they need it most. Public health orders include actions required to reduce the threat to the public health of all Manitobans and are issued by the Chief Provincial Public Health Officer.

5. What specific orders come with the declaration?

The only orders in place at this time are those issued by the Chief Provincial Public Health Officer. However, if necessary orders may be made by the Minister of Infrastructure or municipal authorities under The Emergency Measures Act in order to prevent or limit loss of life and damage to property or the environment

6. Where can I find the public health orders in place?

The list of public health orders can be found online at <https://www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/soe.html>.

7. Who can I contact if I witness someone not following a public health order?

We are relying on Manitobans to do their part. If you observe an infraction that creates an urgent threat to public health, contact the Health Protection Unit by email at healthprotection@gov.mb.ca

8. Can the public health orders change?

Yes, the Chief Provincial Public Health Officer can terminate or issue new or amended orders if needed. The public health orders in place can be viewed online at <https://www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/soe.html>.

9. Do the public health orders impact the provincial government?

No, public health orders do not impact the operations or the delivery of services by the Government of Manitoba or the Government of Canada.

10. Do public health orders have any impact on municipal or Northern Affairs community operations?

No, municipalities and Northern Affairs communities can continue operations and the delivery of their services.

11. Where can I get a copy of the Emergency Measures Act to learn more about a state of emergency?

You can read more on the Emergency Measures Act and a state of emergency online at <https://web2.gov.mb.ca/laws/statutes/ccsm/e080e.php>

12. What are other provinces doing?

Most provinces are declaring emergencies and issuing public health orders, and many have the same restrictions in place.

13. What social distancing measures are recommended by the Chief Provincial Public Health Officer at this time?

The most up to date information regarding social distancing recommendations can be found online at <https://manitoba.ca/covid19/socialdistancing/index.html>.

For Manitobans

14. Will grocery stores be open?

Yes, grocery stores can continue to operate. However, they are required to implement measures to ensure that people attending the store are reasonably able to maintain a separation of at least two meters from each other.

15. Does the order regarding the limit of 10 people apply to people living in the same house?

No, the 10 people maximum at a public gathering is intended for public events such as weddings, funerals or worship.

16. Will I be able to do my banking in person?

Yes, banks can continue to operate. However, they are required to implement measures to ensure that people attending the bank are reasonably able to maintain a separation of at least two meters from each other.

17. Will pharmacies be open?

Yes, pharmacies can continue to operate. However, they are required to implement measures to ensure that people attending the pharmacy are reasonably able to maintain a separation of at least two meters from each other.

18. Will public transportation like buses be running?

Public transportation and services like taxis, limousines and other vehicles for hire necessary for the activities of daily living can continue operating. However, operators' must ensure that all passengers are able to maintain a reasonable separation from other people in the vehicle.

19. Will restaurants be open?

Yes, restaurants can remain open for delivery or takeaway. However, under the public health orders in place they can no longer serve food on their premise. Additionally, restaurants are required to implement measures to ensure that people picking up food are reasonably able to maintain a separation of at least two meters from each other.

20. Will hotels and motels be open?

Yes, hotels and motels will be open for lodging. However, any restaurant or bar inside will only be able to serve delivery or takeaway. Additionally, they are required to implement measures to ensure that people attending the hotel are reasonably able to maintain a separation of at least two meters from each other.

21. What health services will I be able to access?

The order does not restrict the operations or delivery of publicly funded health care operations and services, including hospitals, health centres, personal care homes, ambulance services, medical clinics, RHAAM Clinics, access centres, home care services, public health services, midwifery services, laboratory services, diagnostic imaging and mental health and addictions treatment.

This also includes other businesses that provide health services that are not publicly funded such as assisted living, supportive housing, private personal support services or home care services, mental health or addictions treatment and counselling and residential services for people with physical or mental disabilities.

In addition, the order does not restrict the operations of pharmacies, medical supply businesses and businesses, which sell, rent or repair assistive devices, mobility devices or medical devices, and other similar devices or supplies.

The order also does not restrict the provision of medical services, nursing services and midwifery services. Other health professionals, such as psychologists, dentists, optometrists, physiotherapists, and chiropractors can provide services to or on behalf of the Government of Canada, Government of Manitoba or a municipality, any publicly funded agency or any business outlined in the list “schedule”. Additionally, they can provide urgent or emergent care.

22. Will my parent’s personal care home stay open?

Yes, personal care homes can continue operating. Supportive housing and assisted living facilities may also stay open. However, most facilities have restrictions on visiting in place. People should contact the facilities in advance if they need to visit.

23. Will I continue to receive mail and parcel delivery?

Yes, mail and parcel delivery services can continue to operate under the public health orders in place.

24. We are in the market for a new home; can real estate agents work during this period?

Yes, real estate agents are permitted to work under the public health orders in place. However, they must ensure that social distancing measures are implemented as recommended by the Chief Provincial Public Health Officer.

25. Can I still use my neighbourhood laundromat?

Yes, laundromats can continue operating under the public health orders in place. However, all laundromats are required to implement measures to ensure that people attending the building are reasonably able to maintain a separation of at least two meters from each other

26. Will liquor and cannabis stores remain open?

Yes, liquor and cannabis stores can stay open under the public health orders in place. However, they are required to implement measures to ensure that people attending the store are reasonably able to maintain a separation of at least two meters from each other.

27. My pet is sick, are veterinarians able to provide services?

Yes, veterinarians are able to operate under the public health orders in place.

28. Will fitness centers remain open?

No, all wellness centers offering physical gyms, fitness centres, athletic clubs and training facilities will be closed.

29. I am having a house built, will the contractor be able to finish?

Yes, residential contractors can continue to provide services related to construction; including renovations and demolitions.

30. Will garden supply stores be open to the public?

No, garden supply stores must ensure their place of business is closed between 12:01 a.m. on April 1, 2020 to 12:01 a.m. on April 14, 2020.

31. Can I have my septic tank drained during this time?

Yes, septic haulers can continue to operate under the public health orders in place.

32. I need to have my well water tested; will that be possible?

Yes, businesses that provide water testing can continue operations under the public health orders in place.

33. Will my local food bank remain open?

Yes, organizations that provide food, shelter, and social services can remain open. However, the food bank must ensure that people attending are able to maintain a separation of two meters.

For Manitoba Businesses

34. Do the public health orders impact my business?

The public health orders may impact your business. You can view the public health orders and list “schedule” of exceptions online at <https://www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/soe.html>.

35. My business is open to the public but is included on the list “schedule”, are there any other orders that I have to follow?

Yes, the order states that any business open to the public that is listed in the “schedule” must implement measures to ensure that people attending the business are reasonably able to maintain a separation of at least two metres from each other.

36. I operate a business that is included on the list “schedule”, can I change my hours to accommodate measures for social distancing?

The order does not restrict the hours you can operate your business. However, any existing limits on hours remain in force.

37. My retail business is included on the list “schedule”; do I have to limit the number of people allowed in my store?

No, the 10 people maximum at a public gathering is intended for public events such as weddings, funerals or worship. However, businesses that are open to the public must implement measures to ensure that people attending are reasonably able to maintain a separation of at least two meters from each other.

38. My business is not included on the list “schedule” but I supply materials to a business that is, can my business continue to operate?

Yes, businesses that supply goods or services that are necessary for a business identified on the list “schedule” can continue to operate.

39. My business is not included on the list “schedule”, if I start selling hardware items can I continue to operate?

No, if your primary line of business is not included on the list “schedule” you are required to close between 12:01 a.m. on April 1, 2020, and 12:01 a.m. on April 14, 2020. Selling items that are considered essential, such as hardware or groceries, does make your business exempt if your primary line of business was not included on the list “schedule”.

that are not included on the list can the list has been developed by the Chief Provincial Public Health Officer to businesses that supply goods or services that are necessary for a business identified on the list “schedule” can continue to operate.

40. If my business provides services exclusively online or by telephone, can I still operate?

Yes, businesses that provide online services, by telephone or other remote means can continue operations. Nothing in the order prevents a business from operating remotely as long as they can do so without attending the place of business.

41. I own a business that is required to close under the public health order, when can I re-open?

The public health order is in place between 12:01 a.m. on April 1, 2020 to 12:01 a.m. on April 14, 2020. However, the order may be extended to ensure the safety and well-being of Manitobans.

42. My business must shut down due to one of the public health orders; will there be support programs I can access?

Please refer to the Information for Workplaces and Employees website for information and resources for businesses impacted by Covid-19

<https://manitoba.ca/covid19/infomanitobans/workplaces.html#collapse3>.

Additional resources for Canadian businesses can be found at

<https://www.canada.ca/en/services/business/maintaingrowimprovebusiness/resources-for-canadian-businesses.html>

43. My business is facing a staffing shortage; can I access the services of a staffing agency?

Yes, staffing agencies can operate under the public health order in place.

44. I own a construction company, we are currently working on multiple large projects, can we continue?

Yes, a business engaged in construction work or services in the industrial, commercial or residential sectors can continue operating.

45. My business is a tutoring service; can I continue to operate?

No, tutoring services must be closed between 12:01 a.m. on April 1, 2020 to 12:01 a.m. on April 14, 2020.

46. I operate a sporting goods store; can I continue to operate?

No, sporting good stores must close between 12:01 a.m. on April 1, 2020 to 12:01 a.m. on April 14, 2020.

47. I own a dog kennel; can I continue to operate?

Yes, dog kennels can continue to operate.

48. I own a hair salon; can I continue to operate my business?

No, all personal care services like hair and nail salons must ensure their businesses are closed to the public between 12:01 a.m. on April 1, 2020 and 12:01 a.m. on April 14, 2020.

49. My business is not included on the list “schedule”; can I move my business online and continue operating?

Yes, nothing in the order prevents a business from operating remotely as long as they can do so without attending the place of business. However, you can temporarily access your place of business for any goods or supplies you may need to operate remotely.

50. I volunteer at an animal shelter; does it have to close?

No, businesses that provide for the health and well-being of animals can continue to operate.

51. I am an audiologist and provide hearing aids; can I continue to operate?

Yes, businesses that sell, rent or repair assistive devices, mobility devices or medical devices like hearing aids can continue to operate under the public health orders in place.

52. I own a lawn care business, can I continue to operate?

Yes, lawn care businesses can continue to operate. This also includes any business that provides arboriculture services.

53. What types of manufacturing businesses are included on the list “schedule” of exceptions?

All businesses that manufacture or process goods or materials are exempt from the public health orders in place. However, workplaces should still follow social distancing practices as recommended by the Chief Provincial Public Health Officer.

54. My business is a vehicle repair shop, can I continue to operate?

Yes, a business that services or repairs vehicles can continue to operate under the public health order in place. However, businesses that are open to the public must implement measures to ensure that any person attending is reasonably able to maintain a separation of at least two meters from another person.

55. I run a child-care service in my home, can I continue to operate?

In home child-care services with eight or less children can continue to operate under the public health orders in place.

56. My business employs a private security firm, are they allowed to work?

Yes, security services, including private security guards and monitoring or surveillance services can continue to work under the public health orders in place.

57. I am not sure if my business is impacted by the public health orders, who can I contact?

If you are unsure how the public health orders impact your business, you can contact Manitoba General Inquiry by email at mgi@gov.mb.ca or by phone at 204-945-3744 or 1-866-MANITOBA (1-866-626-4862).