

## **COVID-19 State of Emergency and Public Health Orders FAQs**

### **General**

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**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](mailto: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**

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**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 10 people limit 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. Can I order liquor with my takeout order?**

Yes, licensed restaurants and commercial facilities can sell liquor with takeout and delivery meal services.

**21. 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.

**22. 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, RAAM 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, including 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.

**23. 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.

**24. 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.

**25. 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.

**26. 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 laundromat are reasonably able to maintain a separation of at least two meters from each other

**27. 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.

**28. Will vape shops be open?**

No, vape shops are required to close. However, businesses that are not included on the list of critical services can provide goods online or by telephone as long as they are delivered or available for pick-up curbside. Customers cannot pickup goods on the business premises or on its property.

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

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

**30. Will fitness centers remain open?**

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

**31. 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.

**32. Will garden supply stores be open to the public?**

No, garden supply stores must ensure they are closed to the public from April 1 to April 14. However, garden supply stores can provide goods online or by telephone as long as they are delivered or available for pick-up curbside. Customers cannot pickup goods on the business premises or on its property. Additionally, workplaces that remain open must ensure that social distancing measures are implemented as recommended by the Chief Provincial Public Health Officer.

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

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

**34. Will golf courses be open this year?**

Golf courses are required to close to the public from April 1 to April 14. However, the golf course can provide goods online or by telephone as long as they are delivered or available for pick-up curbside. Customers cannot pickup goods on the business premises or on its property. Additionally, workplaces that remain open must ensure that social distancing measures are implemented as recommended by the Chief Provincial Public Health Officer.

**35. 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.

**36. 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**

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**37. 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 of critical services with exemptions online at <https://www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/soe.html>.

**38. My business is not included on the list of critical services; do I have to close?**

Businesses that are not included on the list of critical services must close their place of business to the public between the dates of April 1 and April 14.

However, businesses can:

- continue to operate where customers can order goods online or by telephone; however, customers cannot attend the businesses' premises or property to order goods;
- continue to sell goods to customers where those goods can be picked up 'curbside' or delivered to customers; however, customers cannot pick up goods at businesses' premises or on its property;
- allow staff to attend the businesses' premises, without a limitation on the number of staff, as long as staff take measures to keep social distancing of one to two metres apart from each other; and
- accept delivery of goods and may allow services, such as construction, repairs, maintenance and cleaning to occur at their premises and on their property.

**39. My business is open to the public but is included on the list of critical services, are there any other orders that I have to follow?**

Yes, the order states that any business open to the public 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.

**40. I operate a business that is included on the list of critical services; 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.

**41. My retail business is included on the list of critical services; 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.

**42. My business is not included on the list of critical services, 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 of critical services can continue to operate. . However, workplaces should still follow social distancing practices as recommended by the Chief Provincial Public Health Officer.

**43. My business is not included on the list of critical services; 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 April 1, 2020, and April 14, 2020. Selling items that are considered essential, such as hardware or groceries, does not make your business exempt if your primary line of business was not included on the list of critical services.

**44. 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.

**45. 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 April 1, 2020 and April 14, 2020. However, the order may be extended to ensure the safety and well-being of Manitobans.

**46. 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>

**47. 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.

**48. 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. However, workplaces should still follow social distancing practices as recommended by the Chief Provincial Public Health Officer.

**49. I own a golf course; can I have staff onsite to maintain the course?**

Yes, golf courses can continue to employ staff for maintenance. Additionally, if the golf course has a shop they can provide goods online or by telephone for delivery or pickup. Additionally, workplaces should still follow social distancing practices as recommended by the Chief Provincial Public Health Officer.

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

No, tutoring services open to the public must be closed between April 1, 2020 and April 14, 2020. However, tutoring services online or by telephone can continue.

**51. I own a garden supply store that has to close to the public, can I still have employees in the store preparing orders for delivery or pickup?**

Yes, employees can be in the store and prepare orders for delivery or pickup. However, workplaces should still follow social distancing practices as recommended by the Chief Provincial Public Health Officer.

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

No, sporting goods stores must close between April 1, 2020 and April 14, 2020.

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

Yes, dog kennels can continue to operate.

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

All personal care services like hair and nail salons must ensure their businesses are closed to the public between April 1, 2020 and April 14, 2020. However, they can sell products online or by telephone for delivery or curbside pickup.



**55. 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.

**56. 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.

**57. 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.

**58. I operate a property maintenance company; can I continue to operate?**

Yes, property maintenance businesses can continue to operate under the public health orders in place. Workplaces that continue to operate should still follow social distancing practices as recommended by the Chief Provincial Public Health Officer

**59. 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.

**60. 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.

**61. 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.

**62. 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.

April 1, 2020

**63. 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](mailto:mgi@gov.mb.ca) or by phone at 204-945-3744 or 1-866-MANITOBA (1-866-626-4862).