



**THE
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*"Setting the Pace
for a Greater
Brandon
Since 1883"*

December 23, 2020

Dear Mr. Premier and Dr. Roussin,

As the final days of 2020 come to an end and we move closer to January 8, 2021, we as a Chamber network wanted to follow up to our letter dated December 2, 2020. We would like to provide some more specific recommendations that we hope you may take into consideration as we look to the next phase of recovery for our economy and Manitoba businesses.

Referencing the fifth point in our letter, we would like to expand on our engagement with the local business community to find a safe and controlled way to take steps towards reopening.

"Through our engagement with numerous local businesses, we have gathered much input across many industries on how they can safely reopen their doors at a 25% capacity. For example: mandatory disinfection between servicing clients, strict enforcement of capacity limits, only marketing products and in-store purchases to consumers in our region, and additional tracing/tracking of customers to visit businesses just to name a few. Safely managing capacity and traffic flow in our businesses is the top priority of our businesses in reopening."

Looking ahead to January 8, 2021, if we are still in a position as a region (PMH) to remain in a "CRITICAL (RED)" response level and not able to return to a "RESTRICTED (ORANGE)" level, I would like to propose a modified set of "CRITICAL (RED)" restrictions.

We understand that there is no single indicator for determining risk levels, but a combination of cases, transmission, health care capacity, etc. are used to determine what level of the pandemic response system we currently find ourselves in. To date, there has still been no substantial evidence linking community transmission to small businesses.

It should come as no surprise that the sectors I have proposed recommendations for below have been the hardest hit by this pandemic. These areas are in immediate need of some more operational leniency to remain viable long term. There are some other sectors that have been hit extremely hard as well, but we have narrowed our recommendations to the six areas below.

Retail businesses
Restaurants and other public food establishments
Bars, beverage rooms, brew pubs, micro-breweries, and distilleries
Spas, fitness clubs, gyms, and training facilities
Performing arts and movie theatres
Personal services



RETAIL BUSINESSES

Non-essential retail businesses can open, with occupancy limits in place, if they implement measures to ensure members of the public are reasonably able to maintain a separation distance of at least two metres, except for brief exchanges. Businesses will be required to limit occupancy to 50 per cent of normal capacity or one person per 10 square metres, whichever is lower. Businesses may also continue to provide goods by delivery or pick-up that have been ordered online, by telephone or other remote means.

Additional guidelines for reopening to the public:

- Staff must use the self-screening tool before coming into the facility.
- Employees must stay home when ill.
- Customers are not allowed entry if they have COVID-19 symptoms.
- Staff are given information about physical distancing.
- Businesses must post external signs indicating COVID-19 physical distancing protocols, along with floor markings where service is provided or lines form.
- Entry into the business, including lines, are regulated to prevent congestion.
- No more than four people may gather in common areas. Congregation of people should be actively discouraged.
- Hand sanitizer is available at entrances and exits for public and staff use.
- Washrooms have frequent sanitization and a regime for business sanitization is in place.
- Temperature checks are recorded for all employees and customers along with first names and phone numbers for contact tracing.
- Physical counts will be required to maintain capacity limits. This may be done manually or with one a several available mobile applications.
- Floor must be clearly marked with arrows for a one-way flow of traffic.
- Hours may be limited.
- Face masks must be always worn by employees and customers.



RESTAURANTS AND OTHER PUBLIC FOOD ESTABLISHMENTS & BARS, BEVERAGE ROOMS, BREW PUBS, MICRO-BREWERIES AND DISTILLERIES JANUARY 9, 2021

Public food establishments may be able to open for indoor services with an occupancy limit of 50 per cent or one person per 10 square metres, whichever is less. Businesses must ensure that tables and seating are arranged so there is a permanent or temporary physical barrier or a two-metre separation between patrons sitting at different tables, except for brief exchanges.

Businesses may also continue to provide goods by delivery or pick-up that have been ordered online, by telephone or other remote means.

Additional guidelines for reopening to the public:

- Staff must use the self-screening tool before coming into work.
- Employees must stay home when ill.
- Businesses must post external signs indicating COVID-19 physical distancing protocols, along with floor markings where service is provided or lines form.
- Entry into the business, including lines, are regulated to prevent congestion.
- No more than four people may gather in common areas or at one table.
- Hand sanitizer is available at entrances and exits for public and staff use.
- Washrooms are frequently sanitized and a regime for business sanitization is in place.
- Two metres/six feet is required between tables unless a non-permeable barrier is in place.
- No buffet service will be allowed. Food and drinks are delivered directly to patrons.
- Surfaces such as tables, chairs and booths are sanitized between customers.
- Table items, such as condiments, menus, napkins, and décor, should be removed unless they can be cleaned between customers.
- Drink refills are not allowed. Cups, straws, and lids should be behind a counter and handed to customers. Self-service is not permitted. Self-service condiments should be removed. Refillable or reusable containers are not allowed.
- Cashless or no-contact payment should be used to the greatest extent possible.
- Members of the public must be seated at tables.
- Dedicated bussers to clean and maintain tables and sanitize all booths and touch points.
- Servers to wear disposable gloves.
- Standing service is not allowed.
- Dance floors are to be closed.
- Temperature checks are recorded for all employees and customers along with first names and phone numbers for contact tracing.
- Physical counts will be required to maintain capacity limits. This may be done manually or with one a several available mobile applications.
- Floor must be clearly marked with arrows for a one-way flow of traffic.
- Hours may be limited.
- Face masks must be always worn by employees.
- Face masks must be always worn by customers, except when sitting at table.



SPAS, FITNESS CLUBS, GYMS AND TRAINING FACILITIES

Fitness clubs, gyms and training facilities, martial arts, gymnastic clubs, yoga studios and dance, theatre and music schools must remain at occupancy levels of 50 per cent or one person per 10 square metres, whichever is less. Other facilities may fully open with two metres of physical distancing in place. Change rooms and shower facilities must remain closed.

Additional guidelines for reopening to the public:

- Staff must use the self-screening tool before coming into work.
- Employees must stay home when ill.
- Customers are not allowed entry if they have COVID-19 symptoms.
- Staff are given information about physical distancing.
- Businesses must post external signs indicating COVID-19 physical distancing protocols, along with floor markings where service is provided or lines form.
- Entry into the business, including lines, are regulated to prevent congestion.
- No more than four people may gather in common areas. Congregation of people should be actively discouraged.
- Hand sanitizer is available at entrances and exits for public and staff use.
- Washrooms have frequent sanitization and a regime for business sanitization is in place.
- Temperature checks are recorded for all employees and customers along with first names and phone numbers for contact tracing.
- Physical counts will be required to maintain capacity limits. This may be done manually or with one a several available mobile applications.
- Floor must be clearly marked with arrows for a one-way flow of traffic.
- Hours may be limited.
- Face masks must be always worn by employees.
- Face masks must be always worn by customers, except for when using cardio equipment.



PERSONAL SERVICES

Personal service businesses may be able to open with occupancy limits in place, which include a limit of 50 per cent of normal business levels or one person per 10 square metres, whichever is lower. Customers and staff must maintain a distance of at least two metres, except for receiving services or brief exchanges.

Additional guidelines for reopening to the public:

- Staff and clients must use the self-screening tool before booking an appointment.
- Employees must stay home when ill with COVID-19 symptoms.

- Clients are screened by telephone before an appointment is booked and are not given an appointment if they have COVID-19 symptoms.
- People identified as symptomatic should be instructed to call Health Links - Info Santé.
- Appointment times are staggered to allow physical distancing, and clients should attend alone, without friends or family.
- Staff are given information about physical distancing.
- Businesses must post external signs indicating COVID-19 physical distancing protocols, along with floor markings where services are offered or lines form.
- Entry into the business, including lines and waiting areas, are regulated to prevent congestion.
- Businesses must maintain a single point of entry.
- No more than four people may gather in common areas. Congregation of people should be actively discouraged.
- Hand sanitizer is available at entrances and exits for public and staff use.
- Clients must sanitize hands upon entry to facility.
- Workstations are kept two metres apart and are sanitized between patrons.
- Equipment, instruments, and material that cannot be disinfected between clients cannot be reused.
- Washrooms have frequent sanitization and a regime for business sanitization is in place.
- Magazine racks and toys are removed and play areas in waiting rooms are closed.
- On-site snack bars, coffee bars and other confectionery-style counters are closed.
- Both service providers and customers must wear non-medical masks, particularly when close touch or contact is involved.
- Service providers must wear protective gloves when providing service, particularly when close touch or contact is involved.
- Cashless or no-contact payment should be used to the greatest extent possible.
- Temperature checks are recorded for all employees and customers along with first names and phone numbers for contact tracing.
- Physical counts will be required to maintain capacity limits. This may be done manually or with one a several recommended apps.
- Floor must be clearly marked with arrows for a one-way flow of traffic.

On behalf of the Brandon Chamber network, we again want to thank you for your relentless efforts in this fight against COVID-19 and your dedication to minimize its impacts on this great province.

We would also like to remind you that our position as a Chamber network has never wavered from our support of the decisions of public health. However, we do believe there is a safe and controlled way to let our businesses reopen on January 9, 2021 in a limited capacity.

We believe these incremental measures are sustainable long term and will set our business community up for success. We are at a critical time for many small businesses; it is imperative that we take the next step.

Sincerely,



Spencer Day
President
Brandon Chamber of Commerce

cc:
Carolynn Cancade, General Manager
The Brandon Chamber of Commerce

Chuck Davidson, President & CEO
Manitoba Chambers of Commerce

Mayor Rick Chrest
The City of Brandon

Len Isleifson
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Hon. Cliff Cullen
MLA Spruce Woods

Hon. Reg Helwer
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