

# Municipal Governance

## During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Frequently Asked Questions – July 7, 2021



On July 1, 2021, the Government of Alberta moved to Stage 3 of its Open for Summer Plan. All restrictions are lifted, including the ban on indoor social gatherings. The general indoor provincial mask mandate has been lifted, but masking may still be required in limited and specific settings.

For the most up-to-date information, visit [alberta.ca/COVID19](https://alberta.ca/COVID19).

While the frequency of these updates will be reduced, Municipal Affairs remains committed to issuing updates to address frequently asked questions and provide new information or resources as they become available. If you would like a specific issue addressed in an upcoming update, please email your request to [ma.lgsmail@gov.ab.ca](mailto:ma.lgsmail@gov.ab.ca).

### Municipal Advisory Services

If you have further questions, please call 780-427-2225 (or toll-free by first dialing 310-0000) or email [ma.lgsmail@gov.ab.ca](mailto:ma.lgsmail@gov.ab.ca).

### Alberta's Open for Summer Plan: Stage 3

**Are there provincial restrictions that remain in effect?**

**YES.** Isolation requirements for confirmed cases of COVID-19 and some protective measures in continuing care settings remain in place. Masking is still required in hospitals, mass transit, ride shares, and taxis. While masking is no longer required in most situations, it is important to support those who may wish to continue wearing masks while adjusting to Stage 3.

A [general guidance document](#) has been created for all sectors to help transition into Stage 3.

**Can local municipalities support Alberta's Open for Summer Plan?**

**YES.** Individuals should continue to be encouraged to get both vaccine doses. As stated by the Chief Medical Officer of Health, one of the greatest impacts local municipal leaders can have is to support and encourage vaccine uptake in your community.

Municipalities can develop ideas and creative strategies to support vaccine uptake by sharing resources and information with other community leaders and businesses.

Municipalities can help ensure residents are aware that all working Albertans can access three hours of paid, job-protected leave to get each dose of the vaccine, and share information about the vaccination program available online at [www.alberta.ca/covid19-vaccine](http://www.alberta.ca/covid19-vaccine).

The employer toolkit can also be shared and is available at [open.alberta.ca/publications/employers-toolkit-for-vaccination](http://open.alberta.ca/publications/employers-toolkit-for-vaccination).

Residents can be encouraged to practice good hygiene, including staying at home when they are sick, washing or sanitizing their hands often, covering coughs and sneezes, and avoiding touching their face.

### **Can municipalities with face covering bylaws continue to require people to wear face masks in public spaces?**

**YES.** Municipal councils may continue to have mask bylaws if the municipal council believes these bylaws are still required in their local community.

### **Are all municipal recreational facilities required to be open to the public on July 1?**

**NO.** Municipalities may develop opening plans and strategies that take into account their staff, operational, and financial capacities.

## Municipal Operations

### **Are there additional resources as municipalities transition back to working from the office?**

**YES.** Resources are available for [guidance](#) in the workplace and to assist with occupational health and safety considerations. The information and suggestions outlined in the guidance documents are optional, and it is up to the individual municipality to determine what measures, if any, to implement.

### **Do community peace officers still have the extended authority to enforce the *Public Health Act* and Chief Medical Officer of Health's Orders?**

**NO.** Ministerial Order 24/2021, issued on June 2, 2021, extended the authorities of peace officers to enforce the *Public Health Act*. This ministerial order expired at 23:59 on July 1, 2021, and is not being extended.

Any municipal bylaws in effect related to enforcement during a public health emergency are not affected.

To review information bulletins for municipalities authorized by Alberta Justice and Solicitor General to employ peace officers, please visit: [open.alberta.ca/publications/bulletin-peace-officer-program](http://open.alberta.ca/publications/bulletin-peace-officer-program).

## Additional Resources

### **Municipal Affairs Updates**

Previous COVID-19 updates are available at [www.alberta.ca/municipal-government-resources.aspx](http://www.alberta.ca/municipal-government-resources.aspx)

RMA's COVID-19 response hub is available at [rmalberta.com/about/covid-19-response-hub](http://rmalberta.com/about/covid-19-response-hub).

AUMA's updated guide is available at [auma.ca/covid19](http://auma.ca/covid19).

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities links and resources for municipalities is available at [fcm.ca/en/resources/covid-19-resources-municipalities](http://fcm.ca/en/resources/covid-19-resources-municipalities).

For the most up-to-date information on the COVID-19 situation in Alberta, visit [alberta.ca/COVID19](http://alberta.ca/COVID19).