

Municipal Governance

During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Frequently Asked Questions – June 18, 2021

On June 10, 2021, the Government of Alberta moved to Stage 2 of Alberta's Open for Summer Plan. The Stage 3 target will be met 14 days after 70 per cent of eligible Albertans receive their first vaccine dose. For the most up-to-date information, visit alberta.ca/COVID19.

As the vaccine program progresses and restrictions continue to ease, Municipal Affairs remains committed to issuing regular 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.

Alberta's Open for Summer Plan

Can local municipalities support the Province of Alberta's Open for Summer Plan?

YES. Alberta's Open for Summer Plan is based upon vaccination uptake rates, with Stage 3 requiring 70 per cent of Albertans to have received at least their first dose. 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 to help encourage vaccine uptake.

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.

The employer toolkit can also be shared which is available at: open.alberta.ca/publications/employers-toolkit-for-vaccination.

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.

Alberta's Open for Summer Plan: Stage 2

Are indoor municipal facilities allowed to open during Stage 2?

YES. Indoor recreation and entertainment facilities (recreation centres, arenas, museums, libraries, pools, etc.) and other settings can be open at one-third of the fire code capacity.

Youth and adult sports may resume with no restrictions. Physical distancing is required outside of play or practice.

Pools, steam rooms, saunas, and hot tubs within a fitness facility may operate at one-third capacity, as long as two metre distancing between households is maintained at all times.

Spectators can attend indoor physical activities and performances, to a maximum of one-third of the venue's capacity. Two metres of physical distancing must be maintained at all times.

Community halls, banquet halls, and conference centres may host wedding ceremonies for a maximum of 20 people (including all people present), or funeral services for a maximum of 20 people (not including facility staff, funeral clergy, or funeral organizers not considered guests). Receptions are not permitted in indoor facilities.

Gyms and fitness studios may open for solo and drop-in activities and indoor fitness classes with three metre physical distancing.

Are outdoor municipal facilities permitted to open during Stage 2?

YES. Outdoor recreational facilities may open with no capacity limits, but two metre physical distancing must be maintained between members of different households.

Youth and adult sports may resume with no restrictions. Physical distancing is required outside of play or practice.

Outdoor fitness classes and groups are allowed with no capacity limits as long as two metre distancing is maintained between members of different households at all times.

Spectators may attend outdoor physical activities and performances to a maximum of one-third of the venue capacity for fixed-seating venues, or 150 people maximum (including participants, production teams, coaches and referees). Similarly, outdoor public gatherings are permitted up to 150 people, or one-third the seated capacity of the outdoor facility.

[Check this link for the most recent key guidance document for sport, fitness and recreation.](#)

Municipal Operations

Is the work from home requirement still in effect?

NO. Working from home is no longer mandatory; however, work from home arrangements are still encouraged at this time.

Are municipalities responsible in any way for use of their community halls or facilities in contravention of the order or parameters of use under the Public Health Order?

YES. Community hall and facility operators, including municipalities, are responsible for any contravention to public health orders that occur within their premises.

Municipal Affairs Updates

Previous COVID-19 updates are available at www.alberta.ca/municipal-government-resources.aspx

Additional Resources

RMA's COVID-19 response hub is available at <https://rmaalberta.com/about/covid-19-response-hub>.

AUMA's updated guide is available at www.auma.ca/covid19.

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities links and resources for municipalities is available at www.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.