

Municipal Governance

During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Frequently Asked Questions – June 4, 2021

On June 1, 2021, the Government of Alberta moved to Stage 1 of Alberta's Open for Summer plan, with the plan to enter Stage 2 on June 10 as long as hospitalizations continue to decline. For the most up-to-date information, visit alberta.ca/COVID19.

While we continue to navigate the ever-evolving COVID-19 pandemic together, 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.

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

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 on May 21, one of the greatest impacts you can have as a local municipal leader 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 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.

Alberta's Open for Summer Plan: Stage 1

Are indoor recreational facilities and fitness facilities allowed to open during Stage 1?

NO. All indoor recreational facilities must remain closed to the public.

Are outdoor recreational facilities and fitness facilities permitted to remain open during Stage 1?

YES. Outdoor recreational facilities may remain open with participant limits and mandatory two metre distancing at all times.

Individual fitness, recreation and performance activities are permitted, such as running, cycling, biking, golfing and other individual activities.

Group activities for 10 or fewer people, such as team sport training, physical activities, fitness training, performance activities, and youth skill development activities are permitted.

More than 10 people may use an outdoor facility at the same time so long as physical distancing is maintained between households.

Up to a maximum of 10 spectators are permitted to attend outdoor physical activities or performances, providing two metre distancing is maintained at all times.

Outdoor pools, golf courses, tennis courts, pickleball courts, croquet pitches, running tracks, bicycle tracks, and velodromes can remain open, unless specifically closed by a public health order.

For additional information on restrictions on events and participants, visit alberta.ca/COVID19.

Can banquet halls, community halls or conference centers be opened during Stage 1?

YES. However, activities are limited to wedding ceremonies up to 10 people (including officials), or funeral services up to 20 people (not including facility staff, funeral clergy or organizers). Receptions and trade shows remain prohibited.

Municipal Operations

Are municipalities expected to follow the work from home requirement?

YES. Working from home remains mandatory. Work from home requirements apply to municipal offices, public works facilities, and any other municipal facilities unless the employee's physical presence is required to operate effectively. When at work employees must mask for all indoor settings, except

where physical distancing is practiced or adequate barriers are in place.

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.

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