

# Municipal Governance

## During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Frequently Asked Questions – May 13, 2021

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On May 4, 2021, the Government of Alberta announced enhanced restrictions to stop the spike of COVID-19. Additional restrictions came into effect on May 5, 2021 for regions with high case rates. Province-wide measures continue to apply to all other areas. For the most up-to-date information, visit [alberta.ca/COVID19](https://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](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).

## Municipalities in High Case Areas

**Do the newly announced restrictions only apply in areas with high case rates?**

**YES.** Restrictions still apply across the province, but starting May 5, additional restrictions came into effect for regions with at least 50 cases per 100,000 people, and at least 30 active cases. To determine if these restrictions apply to your region, visit [alberta.ca/stopthepike](https://alberta.ca/stopthepike).

**Are outdoor recreational facilities and fitness facilities permitted to remain open in municipalities with high cases?**

**YES.** However, all outdoor sports and recreational activities are only permitted for members of one household or, if living alone, one person and their two close contacts. This includes all group physical activities and team sports, as well as any group or one-on-one lessons, training, practice, or games. For additional restrictions on events and participants, visit [alberta.ca/COVID19](https://alberta.ca/COVID19).

**Can campgrounds with toilets and showers be open?**

**YES.** Shared amenities and high-touch surfaces should undergo regular cleaning and disinfection procedures with increased frequency, and patrons must follow the physical distancing guidelines in place at the time.

**Will we be notified if our municipality moves into the criteria that enhanced measures apply?**

**YES.** Should a community have enough cases to be bumped into the areas with enhanced measures, you will be contacted by a representative from Alberta Health Services to notify you of the change.

### Municipal Affairs Updates

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

## 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

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## Municipalities in Lower Case Areas

**If our region has less than 50 cases per 100,000 or less than 30 active cases, are indoor activities permitted?**

**NO.** All indoor fitness facilities must close. Effective May 9, indoor sport, performance and recreation activities are not permitted. No games, competitions, practices, or league play of any kind are allowed.

**If our region has less than 50 cases per 100,000 or less than 30 active cases, are outdoor activities permitted?**

**YES.** For outdoor facilities, games, competitions, and team sports are permitted where participants can maintain 2 metre physical distancing at all times.

Outdoor fitness or sports training for individuals and groups to a maximum of 10 people is permitted provided 2 metre physical distancing is maintained at all times.

Outdoor group physical activity is limited to 10 people or fewer. Participants from different households must maintain 2 metre physical distancing at all times.

Individual sports activities such as running, cycling, dirt biking, and golfing (disc and regular) are permitted. Outdoor pools, tennis and pickleball courts, croquet pitches, running tracks and other similar outdoor facilities may be open, but can only be used by household groups, or individuals who live alone and their cohorts and must ensure 2 metre physical distancing is maintained at all times.

For additional restrictions on events and participants, visit [alberta.ca/COVID19](http://alberta.ca/COVID19).

## 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](http://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](http://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](http://alberta.ca/COVID19).