

# Municipal Governance

## During the COVID-19 Outbreak

Frequently Asked Questions – July 17, 2020

Alberta Municipal Affairs will continue to provide biweekly updates capturing frequently asked questions and providing information on new tools and resources as they become available.

The following addresses Ministerial Orders [MSD:019/20](#), [MAG:014/20](#), and [MSD:036/20](#), as well as mask distribution, municipal enforcement, the COVID-19 status map, and links to bilingual COVID-19 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)

## Public Health Emergency

**Do the Ministerial Orders that provided extensions to legislated timelines and deadlines lapse on August 14, 2020, similar to Ministerial Orders (MOs) made under the *Public Health Act* (PHA)?**

**NO.** MOs [MSD:019/20](#) (intermunicipal collaboration frameworks), [MAG:014/20](#) (assessment and tax recovery), and [MSD:036/20](#) (planning and development) were enacted under the *Municipal Government Act*, not the *Public Health Act* (PHA); therefore, they remain in effect until they are repealed or replaced. It is only MOs made under Section 52.1(2) of the PHA that will lapse on August 14, which is 60 days after the state of public health emergency lapsed.

### 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)

## Mask Distribution

**Is there a plan in place to get non-medical masks to Albertans that do not have access to drive-thru locations across the province?**

**YES.** Understanding that not all Albertans can access a drive-thru, a model was created resulting in masks being provided to 49 municipalities for distribution. There were also masks distributed to First Nations and Metis Settlements, seniors' facilities, homeless shelters, women's shelters, street outreach programs, senior-serving organizations, residential addiction treatment facilities, and foster and kinship parents. In addition, non-medical masks were distributed to places of worship and masks were provided to both Calgary and Edmonton for distribution through their transit.

Those who cannot access a restaurant partner or access masks through alternate municipal or community providers can contact Alberta 211 for assistance.

A&W, McDonald's, and Tim Hortons partner restaurants are handing out eight masks per person for this second round of distribution.

## Is the second round of mask distribution underway?

**YES.** Masks are now available at more than 700 partner restaurant locations, including those without drive-thru service, adding more than 100 new locations and expanding the availability of masks to Albertans. No purchase is necessary to pick up masks in restaurants, either at the counter or through drive-thrus.

Masks are also being distributed through libraries, food banks, Metis Nation of Alberta, Native Friendship centres, the Centre for Newcomers, and 20 municipal transit authorities, including another distribution to Edmonton and Calgary. The second round will also include the distribution of masks to all other groups included in the first distribution, unless they choose to opt out. As of June 29, eleven municipalities have advised that they have enough masks remaining from round one distribution and do not wish to participate in a second distribution. Additional information and feedback forms to submit concerns or complaints about the distribution of mask are available at [alberta.ca/masks](http://alberta.ca/masks).

## General Questions

**There have been instances of public gatherings that contravene public health orders for social distancing or limits to the size of gatherings (e.g., weekend gatherings on local beach areas). Do municipalities have authority to ensure the public health orders are enforced?**

**YES.** Municipalities have the authority to close or restrict access to municipal parks and facilities. Community signage may also promote public awareness and education. In addition, local bylaws can be enacted and enforced.

Community peace officers are encouraged to continue educating individuals on the public health orders. If enforcement is required, the RCMP or public health inspectors are authorized to enforce orders issued under the *PHA*.

## Are municipalities notified before the public when their regions are put on “watch” status on the COVID-19 status map?

**YES.** The COVID-19 status map shows the level of risk in regions and information about local health measures. It also shows the rate of COVID-19 cases and the number of active cases. Regions are designated as ‘open’, ‘watch’ or ‘enhanced relaunch’ status. When the number of active COVID-19 cases identified in a region increase and leads to a ‘watch’ status, the Pandemic Response Planning Team facilitates engagement with Alberta Health Services, Alberta Health, and the Chief Administrative Officer to inform the municipality ahead of the public notification going live on the status map.

## Is information about COVID-19 awareness and actions to prevent the spread available in French or any other languages?

**YES.** Printable posters are available with information and tips on a number of pandemic-related topics. Many of these posters are available in French and other languages: [www.alberta.ca/covid-19-information-posters.aspx](http://www.alberta.ca/covid-19-information-posters.aspx).

French posters can be found at the following link: <https://open.alberta.ca/publications/covid-19-help-prevent-the-spread-information-posters-french-language>.

Municipalities can encourage community businesses and organizations to take advantage of these resources and other French guidance documents available at: [open.alberta.ca/dataset?tags=COVID-19&language=fr-CA&sort=date\\_modified+desc](http://open.alberta.ca/dataset?tags=COVID-19&language=fr-CA&sort=date_modified+desc).

### Have a question?

If you have a specific question you would like answered in an upcoming update, please email your request to [ma.lgsmail@gov.ab.ca](mailto:ma.lgsmail@gov.ab.ca).