



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

The Honourable Scott Moe
Premier of Saskatchewan
226 Legislative Building
2405 Legislative Drive
Regina SK S4S 0B3

via email: premier@gov.sk.ca

Dear Premier Moe,

On behalf of Saskatoon City Council, I am writing you today to request that your government issue gathering size limits in the Saskatoon zone as an additional measure to mitigate the transmission of COVID-19 in our region and to lessen the severe impact it is having on our health care services.

City Council is very supportive of the recently enacted public orders on masking and vaccination requirements, but we also believe gathering restrictions will add another important layer of added protection, as demonstrated in previous months of the pandemic.

This week, City Council approved a COVID-19 risk mitigation framework that uses various public health data and indicators so that the City can enact measures to minimize virus transmission in its facilities and other areas where we can regulate. The indicators show that Saskatoon is in the “high risk” (or orange) zone, but trending to a critical risk, or red, zone. The high-risk zone also includes a request to the Government of Saskatchewan for restrictions on public and household gatherings.

To that end, City Council is specifically requesting that your government issue a public health order to impose gathering size limits to such that:

- A 150-person maximum capacity limit at an event facilities, casinos, bingo halls, theatres, art galleries, libraries and recreational facilities, or 1/3 of the current capacity, whichever is less, to ensure that physical distancing can be maintained.
- A limit of 15 persons at private gatherings, including household gatherings.
- A limit of 150 people at public indoor gatherings and private indoor gatherings or 1/3 of the current capacity, whichever is less, to ensure that physical distancing can be maintained.
- A limit of 150 people at public outdoor gatherings with physical distancing in place.
- If an event or facility has in place the requirement for a proof of vaccination, or a negative COVID-19 test within 72 hours prior to the event, that the event be exempted from the above noted gathering restrictions.
- The current province-wide masking mandate remain in place.

Appendix 1 Letter to Premier Moe

In crafting these proposed restrictions, we relied on previous public health orders and advice from local medical health officers. That said, we realize that much more detail is required before issuing such orders, but we are proposing these restrictions as the general guidelines to follow about gathering sizes.

Given the emergence and the transmissibility of the Delta Variant of Concern, the resulting case growth, and the over capacity of our intensive care units, City Council is of the view that these complementary restrictions will support the existing measures to help bend the COVID-19 curve once again so that life can return to some level of normalcy more quickly.

We look forward to your response and action on this request. In the meantime, if you require more clarity on our request please contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,



Charlie Clark
Mayor

cc. Honourable Paul Merriman, Minister of Health (***he.minister@gov.sk.ca***)
Honourable Don McMorris, Minister of Government Relations
(***mcmorris.mla@sasktel.net***)
Rodger Hayward, President of Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association
(***naicam.mayor@sasktel.net***)
His Worship, Gerald Aalbers, Chair of the Saskatchewan City Mayors' Caucus
(***gaalbers@lloydminster.ca***)