

Minister of Health



Legislative Building
Regina, Saskatchewan S4S 0B3

October 7, 2021

His Worship Charlie Clark
Mayor of Saskatoon
222-3rd Avenue North
Saskatoon, SK, S7K 0J5

Dear Mr. Clark,

The Government of Saskatchewan has announced a number of new public health measures to address pressures currently facing the health care system caused by rising COVID-19 infection and hospitalization rates, primarily driven by the unvaccinated population.

The new measures include an interim provincial mandatory masking order effective September 17, and proof of vaccination or negative test requirements for all Government of Saskatchewan ministry, crown and agency employees, as well as for a number of public establishments, businesses and event venues, effective October 1. The Saskatchewan Health Authority's workplace proof of vaccination or negative test requirements will come into force on October 15.

Since these announcements, we have already seen an increase in the number of residents seeking immunization, particularly in younger age groups where we have observed vaccine hesitancy. As of September 7, 68 per cent of youth between 12 and 17 years had received their first dose; as of October 5, that age group has increased to 75 per cent. As of September 7, 55 per cent of that age group was fully immunized; as of October 5, 62 per cent have now received both doses.

Vaccination continues to offer the best protection against COVID-19 and is the measure that will turn the tide on the pandemic. The province of Saskatchewan is focused on driving our vaccination rates higher and continue to support businesses and venues in their decisions to implement proof of vaccination or negative test requirements.

We continually review the status of COVID-19 in the province, its impact on our healthcare system and are in regular discussions with public health officials on the current and potential of additional public health measures. At this time, a provincial order restricting gatherings is not being considered.

Municipalities can, if they choose, be more restrictive than what is outlined within the current public health order within city-owned facilities or property, and place specific policy and terms in contract and lease agreements entered into with other parties.

Appendix 2 Letter from Minister Merriman

Thank you for your continued service to the people of Saskatoon.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Paul Merriman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "P" and "M".

Honourable Paul Merriman
Minister of Health