

COVID-19 Update

ISSUE

At its September 27, 2021 Regular Business meeting, Saskatoon City Council approved the “Framework for Measures to Mitigate the Transmission of COVID-19 in Saskatoon” (the “Framework”). An accompanying report described the implementation process of the various measures contained in the Framework.

This report is an update regarding steps taken following the Framework.

BACKGROUND

At its September 29, 2021 Special Meeting, City Council approved the following:

That the Mayor write a letter on behalf of City Council to the Premier of Saskatchewan, the Minister of Health, and any relevant ministers requesting that the Chief Medical Health Officer for Saskatchewan issue a Public Health Order for Saskatchewan that imposes the following:

- A limit of 150 person maximum capacity 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 people 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 these gathering restrictions.
- The current province-wide masking mandate remain in place

This request was forwarded to the Premier on October 1st (Attachment 1).

CURRENT STATUS

On October 7th a response from the Government was received (Attachment 2). In this letter Minister of Health Paul Merriman stated, ‘At this time, a provincial order restricting gatherings is not being considered.’

According to the Framework, Saskatoon is still in the “Orange – High Risk” level (Attachment 3). This level indicates that gathering size restrictions be considered. Following the process in the Framework, the Administration has consulted with the

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Saskatchewan Health Authority Saskatoon Medical Health Officer and there is still a need for gathering size restrictions to mitigate the transmission of COVID-19 in Saskatoon.

Next Steps

As outlined in the Framework the indicators and corresponding level are monitored weekly. The level for November will be updated at the October 27, 2021 City Council meeting.

APPENDICES

1. Letter to Premier Moe
2. Letter from Minister Merriman
3. Framework for Measures to Mitigate the Transmission of COVID-19 in Saskatoon

Report Approval

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