

## The COVID-19 Gathering Bylaw, 2021

### ISSUE

This report submits Bylaw No. 9782, *The COVID-19 Gathering Bylaw, 2021* (the “Bylaw”) for City Council’s consideration. The Bylaw implements City Council’s decision to protect the safety, health, and welfare of people by implementing measures to restrict the number of people gathering for private events in private residences, private events at public venues and places of worship in order to control the spread of COVID-19 in the City of Saskatoon.

### RECOMMENDATION

That City Council consider Bylaw No. 9782, *The COVID-19 Gathering Bylaw, 2021*.

### BACKGROUND

At its Regular Business Meeting held on October 25, 2021, City Council considered a report from the City Solicitor entitled “COVID-19 – Gathering Size Restrictions” and resolved:

1. That the City Solicitor be instructed to develop a bylaw respecting gathering limits consistent with the MHO advice and the advice contained in the report; and
2. That the Mayor engage with the Ministry of Health around this proposed bylaw engaging City administration as appropriate.

### DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

In accordance with City Council’s instructions, attached is Bylaw No. 9782, *The COVID-19 Gathering Bylaw, 2021* for City Council’s consideration. As instructed and in accordance with the recommendation of the Saskatchewan Health Authority Medical Health Officers, the Bylaw serves to:

- Prohibit the unvaccinated and partially vaccinated from gathering in private dwellings beyond their own household.
- Permit fully vaccinated households to socialize with up to one other fully vaccinated household (including children under 12 who are not yet eligible for vaccination).
- Reduce private gathering sizes in public venues (for weddings, funerals etc) to 25% capacity, with no indoor dining, where required proof of vaccination is not required for the event. If proof of vaccination is required, these restrictions would not apply.

- Reduce gathering sizes at places of worship to 25% capacity or a maximum of 150 people, whichever is less, where proof of vaccination is not required. If proof of vaccination is required, these restrictions would not apply.

### **ENFORCEMENT OF BYLAW**

Enforcement of the Bylaw would need to be provided through a contracted security company, as City staff who provide services related to inspection and enforcement of City bylaws already have a demand that exceeds capacity for bylaw compliance, and they do not have the required training to undertake this work.

Members of the public could be directed to the City of Saskatoon website to file an online complaint regarding gathering contraventions including address, date and time of occurrence, and nature of the gathering. While online filing would be encouraged, the Service Saskatoon phone number would also be provided for those wishing to speak to a City representative. Service Saskatoon would then “dispatch” the complaint to the contracted company.

Cost for the contracted enforcement work would be dependent on the desired response level. If there is a desire to have contract personnel available for immediate call out upon receipt of complaints, with service available 12 hours per day, costs are estimated at approximately \$32,400 for the month (based on three contract staff available, 12 hours per day, seven days a week at \$30 per hour each).

### **APPENDICES**

1. Proposed Bylaw No. 9782, *The COVID-19 Gathering Bylaw, 2021*
2. Solicitor-Client Privilege

#### **Report Approval**

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