

Framework for Measures to Mitigate the Risk of COVID-19 Transmission in Saskatoon – January 2022 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” (“Framework”) (Appendix 1). This report provides the monthly update to City Council on the current levels and corresponding measures for consideration as outlined in the Framework.

BACKGROUND

COVID-19 transmission continues to affect the delivery of City programs and services and thus requires ongoing health and safety measures to limit the transmission of COVID-19 in the workplace and community. The Framework assists Administration and City Council in making evidence and scientific-based decisions regarding measures to mitigate the transmission of COVID-19 in Saskatoon. The Framework was developed using public health and epidemiology expertise to inform how and when to implement and relax various risk mitigation measures.

CURRENT STATUS

Following the Framework, the indicator analysis conducted for the Thursday prior to the next regularly scheduled City Council meeting shall be the one used to determine the status and potential measures that may be enacted. For the month of January 2022, the indicators from the current analysis reveal that we will remain in the “yellow” or “caution” level. (Appendix 2). The level for December was “Yellow” or caution.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

Administration consulted with the Saskatchewan Health Authority Saskatoon Medical Health Officer regarding the current level and measures. Following the guidance of the Saskatoon Medical Health Officer, the Public Health Orders currently in place and the considerations for measures in the framework, the measures currently in place will remain in place for the month of January. The health, safety and well-being of employees and facility patrons are top priorities for the City of Saskatoon.

With the emergence of the COVID-19 variant Omicron in Saskatoon Administration has continued to consult with the Saskatchewan Health Authority Saskatoon Medical Health Officer to determine any potential changes required to the current measures. While there is much to learn about Omicron, the current information suggests that the measures in place at this time in our public use facilities and for our staff will continue to protect against the transmission of COVID-19. As always, we will remain ready to adjust quickly to any changes in Public Health Orders or recommendations from the Provincial Government.

NEXT STEPS

Administration will continue to monitor and report to City Council, City staff, and the public on a weekly basis with the updates on the indicators for monitoring COVID-19 risk in Saskatoon and current risk and corresponding measures for consideration. This information will be shared on the City website. Administration will provide monthly updates on the Framework and current COVID-19 situation and response for the City of Saskatoon at the regularly scheduled City Council meetings. A COVID-19 update will no longer be provided at every meeting of Governance and Priorities Committee. Instead, verbal updates will only be provided if there are significant changes to the COVID-19 response.

APPENDICES

1. Framework for Measures to Mitigate the Risk of COVID-19 Transmission in Saskatoon
2. A Review of COVID-19 Framework Statistics – Week Ending – December 15, 2021

Report Approval

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