



**PUBLIC HEALTH ORDER
MANDATORY ISOLATION**

September 12, 2021

(Under Subsection 45(2) of *The Public Health Act, 1994*)

WHEREAS:

- A. I, Dr. Saqib Shahab, an official with the Ministry of Health and the Chief Medical Health Officer for the Province of Saskatchewan, have been authorized by the Minister of Health to make this Order under section 45 of *The Public Health Act, 1994*;
 - B. The transmission of the infectious agent SARS-CoV-2, which has caused cases and outbreaks of a serious communicable disease known as COVID-19 among the population of the Province of Saskatchewan, is a serious public health threat, as defined in *The Public Health Act, 1994*;
 - C. COVID-19 is a category I communicable disease;
 - D. To decrease or eliminate the risk to health presented by COVID-19, it is necessary to (a) reduce the probability for transmission of SARS-CoV-2, and (b) reduce the exposure to SARS-CoV-2;
 - E. An individual infected with SARS-CoV-2, including a variant of concern, can infect other people with whom the infected individual is in contact;
 - F. Multiple SARS-CoV-2 variants of concern have emerged worldwide and are now present in Canada and Saskatchewan. These variants of concern are more transmissible than the previously dominant variants, and are more likely to cause death or serious illness;
 - G. Vaccination against COVID-19 is now widely available across Saskatchewan. Vaccines approved for use in Canada have proven to be safe and highly effective at both preventing the transmission of COVID-19 and preventing negative health outcomes, such as hospitalization and death, in vaccinated persons who do contract COVID-19. However, Saskatchewan has a large population of unvaccinated persons, including those younger than 12 years of age, which is fueling the community spread of COVID-19 and creating opportunities for “breakthrough” infections of vaccinated persons;
 - H. This Order is necessary in order to reduce the burden on Saskatchewan's health care system, enable essential services to continue, and to reduce serious illness and overall deaths as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic;
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- I. I am aware of and have considered the impact that this Order will have on the people of Saskatchewan;
- J. While issuing this Order, I have determined that the restrictions herein are not disproportionate to the risk that COVID-19 poses to the people of Saskatchewan;
- K. I am aware of and have considered that this Order may impact upon constitutionally-protected interests, particularly the rights and freedoms protected by the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* (“**Charter**”), including freedom of expression, freedom of peaceful assembly, freedom of association, and mobility rights. I also recognize that the rights and freedoms protected by the *Charter* are not absolute, and are subject to reasonable limits, prescribed by law as can be demonstrably justified in a free and democratic society;
- L. When issuing this Order, I have considered whether alternate measures that are less impactful on the *Charter*-protected rights and freedoms of the people of Saskatchewan are appropriate and consistent with public health principles, including the precautionary principle. I am aware of the importance of choosing measures that impact the *Charter*-protected rights and freedoms of the people of Saskatchewan as little as possible. To that end, this Order:
 - a. allows fully vaccinated persons to be exempted from the requirement to self-isolate; and
 - b. provides exceptions from self-isolation for school-aged children, to reduce the societal burden associated with parental or guardian absence from work and to ensure children can continue in-person learning;
- M. I consider the following measures in the public interest and necessary to decrease or eliminate the risk to health presented by COVID-19, including variants of concern; and
- N. By virtue of the foregoing and under subsection 45(2) of *The Public Health Act, 1994*, effective September 13, 2021 at 12:01am I hereby ORDER and DIRECT:

This Order applies to all individuals, businesses, institutions, associations and other organizations within the Province of Saskatchewan and City of Lloydminster.

SECTION 1: DEFINITIONS

(a) In this Order:

- (i) “**close contact**” means an individual who has one of the following forms of contact with an individual with COVID-19 during that individual’s infectious period:
 - 1. lived with or was within two metres of an individual with COVID-19 for 15 minutes or more of cumulative contact;

2. had direct contact with infectious bodily fluids of an individual with COVID-19;
3. was coughed or sneezed on by an individual with COVID-19;
4. provided direct care to an individual with COVID-19; or
5. had physical contact with an individual with COVID-19.

“close contact” includes, in the case of pupils, the following forms of contact with an individual with COVID-19 during that individual’s infectious period:

1. all pupils who, for a period of greater than 15 minutes, simultaneously occupied the same indoor space at a school or daycare as an individual with COVID-19; and
2. all pupils who ride the bus or other form of shared transportation to or from school or daycare with an individual with COVID-19.

“close contact” does not include a health care worker in a hospital, personal care home or special care home when wearing appropriate personal protective equipment, specific to COVID-19 exposure, approved by the individual’s workplace Occupational Health and Safety requirements at the time they:

1. are within two metres of or have physical contact with an individual with COVID-19;
2. provide direct care to an individual with COVID-19;
3. are coughed or sneezed on by an individual with COVID-19; or
4. have direct contact with infection bodily fluids of an individual with COVID-19;

(iii) **“daycare”** means:

1. a “facility” as defined in *The Child Care Act, 2014*;
2. a before or after school program operated in affiliation with a school;
3. a “prekindergarten program” as defined in *The Education Act, 1995*; and
4. a bus or other form of shared transportation, if utilized by the pupil to travel to or from daycare;

(iv) **“face covering”** means a medical or non-medical mask or other face covering that fully covers the nose, mouth and chin, but does not include a face shield or visor;

- (v) **“fully vaccinated”** means, at the time an individual becomes a close contact of an individual with COVID-19, it has been 14 days or more after the second dose of a two-dose COVID-19 immunization series or 14 days or more after first dose of a single-dose immunization series;
- (vi) **“health care worker”** means:
 - 1. an employee, contractor, or student that works in a facility that provides medical, dental, diagnostic, or other health-related care or treatment, including a hospital, a special care home designated pursuant to *The Provincial Health Authority Act*, a personal care home licensed pursuant to *The Personal Care Homes Act*, a “medical imaging facility” as defined in *The Patient Choice Medical Imaging Act*, and offices providing services by a member of a regulated health services profession; or
 - 2. an employee or contractor of the Saskatchewan Health Authority who provides health-related care or treatment.
- (vii) **“individual”** means a natural person;
- (viii) **“individual with COVID-19”** means an individual who tests positive for COVID-19 and is within their infectious period;
- (ix) **“infectious period”** means, with respect to an individual who tests positive for COVID-19:
 - 1. If the individual had symptoms prior to the positive COVID-19 test being administered, 48 hours before the start of symptoms until ten days after the start of their symptoms, or longer if advised by a Medical Health Officer; or
 - 2. If the individual had no symptoms at the time of the positive COVID-19 test being administered:
 - A. 48 hours prior to the test to ten days after the date of their positive COVID-19 test, if they do not experience symptoms during that period of time; or
 - B. 48 hours prior to the positive COVID-19 test being administered until ten days after the start of symptoms, if they experience symptoms within ten days of the test.
- (x) **“partially vaccinated”** means, at the time an individual becomes a close contact of an individual with COVID-19:
 - 1. An individual has received the first dose of a two-dose COVID-19 immunization series, and at least 14 days have passed since the individual received that dose; or

2. An individual has received two doses of a COVID-19 immunization series, but 14 days have not passed since the individual received their second dose.
- (xi) “*pupil*” means an individual who is enrolled in a school or daycare;
 - (xii) “*school*” means:
 1. a “school” as defined in *The Education Act, 1995*;
 2. an “independent school” as defined in *The Education Act, 1995*; and
 3. a bus or other form of shared transportation, if utilized by the pupil to travel to or from school;
 - (xiii) “*symptoms*” means the signs and symptoms of a COVID-19 infection, and includes fever, cough, headache, muscle or joint aches and pains, sore throat, chills, runny nose, conjunctivitis or pink eye, dizziness, fatigue, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, loss of appetite, altered sense of taste or smell, shortness of breath, or difficulty breathing; and
 - (xiv) “*tests positive for COVID-19*” means an individual has tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 utilizing an antigen test or polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test.

SECTION 2: SELF-ISOLATION

- (a) All individuals that tests positive for COVID-19 shall immediately self-isolate until the later of the following:
 - (i) Ten days from the onset of symptoms; or
 - (ii) Ten days from the date the positive COVID-19 test was administered if the individual did not have or display symptoms when tested and has not shown symptoms since the test was administered.
- (b) Subject to subsections (d) and (e) and section 3, all individuals that are a close contact of an individual with COVID-19 shall self-isolate for 14 days from the date of their last exposure to COVID-19.
- (c) All individuals that become symptomatic while self-isolating pursuant to subsection (b) shall call HealthLine 811 and follow all HealthLine directives.
- (d) A Medical Health Officer may exempt an individual from the requirement to self-isolate pursuant to subsection (b) if, in the opinion of the Medical Health Officer:
 - (i) The individual provides an essential service, as described in Appendix A;
 - (ii) The individual’s inability to provide that essential service due to self-isolation would pose a safety risk to the public; and

- (iii) The individual was partially vaccinated at the time of their exposure to COVID-19.

An exemption pursuant to this subsection shall be limited to the times and places necessary to provide the essential services identified pursuant to paragraph (i), and may be subject to any terms or conditions imposed by the Medical Health Officer.

- (e) An individual who is required to self-isolate pursuant to subsection (b) is exempt from the requirement to self-isolate if the individual was fully vaccinated at the time they become a close contact of an individual with COVID-19.
- (f) If an individual exempt from self-isolation pursuant to subsection (d) or (e) or section 3 develops symptoms within 14 days from the date of their last exposure to COVID-19, that individual's self-isolation exemption is automatically revoked, and that individual shall:
 - (i) Immediately self-isolate in accordance with subsection (b); and
 - (ii) Call HealthLine 811 and follow all HealthLine directives.

SECTION 3: SCHOOLS AND DAYCARES

- (a) A pupil who is not fully vaccinated and is a close contact of an individual with COVID-19 due to exposure at a school or daycare, is exempt from self-isolation mandated by subsection 2(b) if:
 - (i) The pupil does not have or display symptoms; and
 - (ii) Subject to subsection (d), the pupil wears a face covering at all times while attending school or daycare.

An exemption pursuant to this subsection shall be limited to the times necessary to attend school for educational purposes or daycare and may be subject to any terms or conditions imposed by a Medical Health Officer.

- (b) For greater certainty, a pupil whose self-isolation is exempted by subsection (a) shall not:
 - (i) Attend at a school or daycare other than the school or daycare where the pupil was exposed to COVID-19;
 - (ii) Attend or remain at a school or daycare for purposes other than those listed in subsection (a), including participation in extracurricular activities.
- (c) A pupil whose self-isolation is exempted by subsection (a) who is or becomes a close contact of an individual with COVID-19 due to exposure outside of a school or daycare must self-isolate in accordance with subsection 2(b), and their self-isolation exemption pursuant to subsection (a) is automatically revoked.
- (d) A pupil required to wear a face covering by subsection (a) is not required to wear such

face coverings while:

- (i) Seated and consuming food or beverage; or
 - (ii) Sleeping at a daycare.
- (e) Notwithstanding paragraph (a)(ii), a pupil aged two or under is not required to wear a face covering.
- (f) For greater certainty:
- (i) A pupil whose self-isolation is exempted by subsection (a) may continue to utilize the bus or other form of shared transportation during their period of self-isolation; and
 - (ii) A pupil who is exposed to COVID-19 outside of school or daycare shall self-isolate in accordance with section 2.
 - (iii) Nothing in this Order prevents a school or daycare from requiring face coverings.

This Order remains in effect until, in the opinion of the Chief Medical Health Officer, there is no longer a public health threat.

DATED at Regina, Saskatchewan, on the 12th day of September, 2021



Dr. Saqib Shahab FRCPC
Government of Saskatchewan
Chief Medical Health Officer

Appendix A - Essential Services

Employers in the below listed essential service fields may apply, to the local public health office, for an exemption on behalf of an employee pursuant to section 2 of this order:

1. Health Care and Public Health Workers

- 811 and 911 call centre workers
- Canadian Red Cross and Canadian Blood Services
- Caregivers
- Home care
- Laboratories and specimen collection centres
- Medical facilities
- Pharmacies
- Physiotherapy – post operative only
- Physical Therapy – post operative only
- Pre-hospital and emergency services (i.e. paramedics, dispatchers)
- Private seniors' residences and services
- Production, supply and distribution of drugs, vaccines and pharmaceutical goods and Medical equipment, including laboratory and research centres
- Public health inspection
- Specialized resources in accommodation (i.e. domestic violence, homelessness, addictions)
- Specialized support services for vulnerable populations (i.e. addictions and mental health support counselling)

2. Law Enforcement, Public Safety and First Responders

- Civil security, coroners and pathology
- Communication services
- Corrections
- Fire services
- Forest firefighters and all types of professionals supporting civil security operations
- Police services, including the distribution of emergency calls
- Security agencies
- Workers, including contracted vendors, who maintain digital infrastructure supporting law enforcement and emergency service options

3. Government and Community Services

- Municipalities, First Nation Bands, or Métis Nation to determine Saskatchewan roles deemed essential to maintain critical functions where other business continuity mitigations aren't available
- Air ambulance, STARS
- All utilities (i.e. power, gas, water/wastewater, telephone) and service providers
- Child and Family Services within the Ministry of Social Services
- Funeral homes, cremation and cemeteries
- Group homes
- Income security and social security
- Providers of goods and services for vulnerable citizens
- Suicide prevention services
- Support services for victims of domestic violence
- Waste collection, disposal and recycling