

Special Measures Order
(Activities and Gatherings Restrictions – Updated February 28, 2022)

**Made pursuant to Section 28 of the
Public Health Protection and Promotion Act**

February 28, 2022

TO: All individuals and businesses operating in Newfoundland and Labrador

WHEREAS:

- A.** While a declaration of a public health emergency is in effect, the Chief Medical Officer of Health may do one or more of the special measures authorized under section 28 of the **Public Health Protection and Promotion Act** for the purpose of protecting the health of the population and preventing, remedying or mitigating the effects of the public health emergency;
- B.** On March 18, 2020, the Minister of Health and Community Services, on the advice of the Chief Medical Officer of Health, declared:
 - (i) a public health emergency as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic;
 - (ii) the public health emergency is in effect for the entire province of Newfoundland and Labrador; and
 - (iii) the public health emergency is in effect for a period of 14 days effective immediately;
- C.** The public health emergency has been extended for 14-day intervals and is currently still in effect.
- D.** The Chief Medical Officer of Health, pursuant to subsection 28(2) of the **Public Health Protection and Promotion Act**, may provide notice in any manner that can reasonably be expected to give actual notice;
- E.** The Chief Medical Officer of Health, pursuant to section 28 of the **Public Health Protection and Promotion Act**, made Special Measures Order (Activities and Gatherings Restrictions – Updated February 21, 2022) effective February 21, 2022;
- F.** The Chief Medical Officer of Health believes that special measures continue to be necessary for the purpose of protecting the health of the population and preventing, remedying or mitigating the effects of the public health emergency; and

G. The Chief Medical Officer of Health believes, in accordance with section 13 of the **Public Health Protection and Promotion Act**, that the restrictions set out in this Special Measures Order (Activities and Gatherings Restrictions – Updated February 28, 2022) are the least intrusive measures reasonably required in the circumstances to respond to the public health emergency,

Pursuant to section 28 of the **Public Health Protection and Promotion Act**, I, Dr. Janice Fitzgerald, Chief Medical Officer of Health HEREBY ORDER:

Sports, arts, fitness and recreational activities

1. Subject to Order No. 2 below, arenas, gyms and fitness facilities, including yoga studios, indoor swimming pools, indoor tennis, squash facilities and dance studios may operate at 75 per cent of the venue's capacity, per rink surface, playing space or room.
2. Amateur individual and team sport and recreation activities may return to out-of-region competition. Where participating in competition, participants are limited to competition against one single team per day. Tournaments are not permitted.
3. Group arts and cultural activities that involve in-person gatherings are limited to practices, rehearsals and performances within their own practice or performance group, with physical distancing maintained where possible between participants. This includes bands, choirs and music classes.

Religious, spiritual and cultural ceremonies

4. Religious and cultural ceremonies and services, including funerals, burials and weddings where held in a place of worship, are limited to:
 - a. no more than 75 per cent of the venue's capacity where the proof of vaccination for persons entering their premises or participating in their services is verified in accordance with Special Measures Order (Proof of Vaccination Status – Updated October 21, 2021), as amended; or
 - b. no more than 50 per cent of the venue's capacity provided physical distancing may be maintained, where the proof of vaccination for persons entering their premises or participating in their services is not verified in accordance with Special Measures Order (Proof of Vaccination Status – Updated October 21, 2021), as amended.
5. Wakes held outside a funeral home or place of worship are limited to 25 people. Visitation is limited to 75 per cent capacity in each room.

Bars and Lounges

6. Businesses that hold a license under the **Liquor Control Act**, whose primary purpose is the consumption of beer, wine, or spirits may operate at 75 per cent of the Fire Commissioner's posted capacity.
7. Dance floors are permitted provided patrons wear masks while dancing.
8. Patrons are permitted to eat and drink while seated or standing at a table only.
9. It is the responsibility of licensees to ensure compliance with this Order within their licensed footprint.

Restaurants

10. Restaurants may operate for in-person dining at no more than 75 per cent of the venue's capacity.
11. Patrons are permitted to eat and drink while seated or standing at a table only.
12. Self-serve buffets are prohibited in restaurants and in businesses that serve food.

Other Gatherings

13. Subject to Order No. 4, funerals, burials, weddings and all other indoor gatherings, not otherwise listed, and operated by a recognized business or organization, are limited to no more than 75 per cent of the venue's capacity.
14. Cinemas are limited to no more than 75 per cent capacity per auditorium or room. Patrons are permitted to eat or drink while seated only.
15. Performance spaces are limited to no more than 75 per cent capacity per auditorium or room. Patrons are permitted to eat or drink while seated only.
16. Bingo halls are limited to no more than 75 per cent capacity per room. Attendees are permitted to eat or drink while seated only.
17. Notwithstanding any Order set out in this Special Measures Order, gatherings in large venues including theatres, performing arts venues, community centres, other entertainment venues and sports venues with a capacity of 500 or more may operate at higher than 75 per cent of the venue's capacity where an operating plan has been approved by an Environmental Health Officer with Digital Government and Service NL.

18. Gatherings in a person's home or property are limited to no more than 25 people.

Other Public Spaces

- 19.** All private health care clinics may remain open in accordance with public health guidelines.
- 20.** Retail stores, including those located in shopping malls, may operate without any occupancy limits.
- 21.** Personal services establishments including spas, esthetic services, hair salons, body piercing, tattooing and tanning salons may remain open in accordance with public health guidelines.

General

- 22.** Visitation to assisted living facilities, personal care homes and long-term care facilities is subject to those restrictions as may be communicated by the Office of the Chief Medical Officer from time to time.
- 23.** Campsites are permitted to open for day use and overnight use subject to the Guidelines for Campgrounds General Restrictions as described in detail at www.gov.nl.ca/covid-19.
- 24.** All individuals who are required to self-isolate must:
 - a. remain on their own property;
 - b. stay in their own unit where they are living in a condominium or apartment. These individuals are not permitted in the common spaces in those buildings; and
 - c. not go for a drive, unless it is to receive medical attention.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED THAT:

- 1.** This Order applies to all individuals and businesses operating in Newfoundland and Labrador.
- 2.** This Special Measures Order (Activities and Gatherings Restrictions – Updated February 28, 2022) is effective as of 12:01 a.m. NST on February 28, 2022 and replaces Special Measures Order (Activities and Gatherings Restrictions – Updated February 21, 2022) effective February 21, 2022.
- 3.** All other Special Measures Orders remain in full force and effect.

TAKE NOTICE THAT:

1. Failure to comply with this order may result in an application to the Supreme Court, in accordance with section 42 of the **Public Health Protection and Promotion Act** to enforce the relevant provisions of this Order.
2. A person who is subject to an order made by the Chief Medical Officer of Health may request that the Chief Medical Officer of Health reconsider the order by filing a written request for reconsideration within 7 days after the day on which the order is served on a person. A written request for review or reconsideration of this order shall include:
 - (i) the reasons for the request;
 - (ii) a summary of the facts relevant to the request;
 - (iii) whether the order should be revoked or how it should be varied; and
 - (iv) the contact information of the person making the request and shall be sent to the following address:

The Chief Medical Officer of Health
Department of Health and Community Services
PO Box 8700
St. John's, NL A1B 4J6

3. The Chief Medical Officer of Health shall review this Order no less than once every 5 days while the Order is in effect.
4. This Order remains in effect during any review or reconsideration.
5. Failure to comply with this Order is an offence for which you may be liable on summary conviction in accordance with section 56 of the **Public Health Protection and Promotion Act**.
6. For greater certainty, compliance with this Order is required in addition to and not in substitution for any requirement imposed by or under any applicable law.

Signed at St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador, this 25th day of February 2022.


Dr. Janice Fitzgerald
Chief Medical Officer of Health