



**PUBLIC HEALTH ORDER
FACE COVERINGS
February 18th, 2021**

(Under Section 25.2 of *The Disease Control Regulations*)

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 act under section 25.2 of *The Disease Control Regulations*;
- B. The transmission of the infectious agent SARS-CoV-2 has caused cases and outbreaks of a serious communicable disease known as COVID-19 among the population of the Province of Saskatchewan. The occurrence of COVID-19 is a serious public health threat, as defined in *The Public Health Act, 1994*;
- C. COVID-19 is a category I communicable disease;
- D. A person infected with SARS-CoV-2 can infect other people with whom the infected person is in contact through droplets in the air, or from fluid containing SARS-CoV-2 left on surfaces;
- E. The gathering of people in close contact with one another can promote the transmission of SARS-CoV-2 and increase the number of people who develop COVID-19;
- F. It is necessary to (a) reduce the probability for transmission of SARS-CoV-2, and (b) reduce the exposure to SARS-CoV-2, to decrease or eliminate the risk to health presented by COVID-19;
- G. Experimental and epidemiological data support community face covering to reduce the transmission risk of SARS-CoV-2;
- H. I consider the following measures necessary, and in the public interest, to decrease or eliminate the serious public health threat presented by COVID-19;
- I. For clarity, none of the provisions herein are intended to replace or amend the requirements found in *The Re-open Saskatchewan Plan* found on the Government of Saskatchewan website: Saskatchewan.ca. In the event that this Order conflicts with the plan, the plan shall prevail.
- J. Effective February 19th, 2021 at 12:01 a.m., I rescind my January 26th, 2021 Face Covering Order, and by virtue of the foregoing and under section 25.2 of *The Disease Control Regulations*:

This order applies to all persons within the Province of Saskatchewan and the City of Lloydminster:

I hereby ORDER and DIRECT effective 12:01 a.m. on February 19, 2021:

1. In this order, “person” means a natural person.
2. Subject to the exemptions set out in section 3, 4 and 5, all persons shall wear a face covering that covers the nose and mouth when in the following enclosed settings:
 - a. Addiction treatment centres, complex care centres, health centres, hospitals, mental health centres, residential treatment centres or special-care homes designated pursuant to *The Provincial Health Authority Act*.
 - b. Personal care homes licensed pursuant to *The Personal Care Homes Act*.
 - c. Assisted living facilities.
 - d. Residential-Service Facilities licensed pursuant to *The Residential-service Facility Regulations*.
 - e. Pharmacies.
 - f. Medical offices and health service centres, such as doctor’s offices, dentist’s offices, physiotherapist offices, and therapeutic massage offices.
 - g. Retail businesses, such as grocery stores, clothing stores, and sporting goods stores.
 - h. Service businesses, such as mechanics, insurance agencies, dry cleaners, and professional services.
 - i. Shopping centres, markets, and malls.
 - j. Personal service businesses, such as hair salons, nail salons, spas, body art facilities, and tanning salons.
 - k. Restaurants and bars, including permittees issued a tavern permit or manufacturer permit pursuant to *The Alcohol Control Regulations, 2016*.
 - l. Places of worship or faith gatherings.
 - m. Places for cultural or entertainment services or activities, such as movie theatres, arcades, concerts or other performances.
 - n. Places for sports and recreational activities, such as gyms, ice arenas, pools, gymnastics facilities, dance facilities, or indoor court or field facilities.
 - o. Places used to hold events or host gatherings, such as conferences, conventions, and receptions.
 - p. Municipal, provincial, or federal government locations offering services to the public.
 - q. In all common areas of a correctional facility designated pursuant to *The Correctional Services Act, 2012*.
 - r. Hotels, motels, and bed and breakfasts.
 - s. Common areas of rental cabins or cottages.
 - t. Common areas, such as elevators, lobbies, or hallways, of multi-unit residential buildings.
 - u. Public areas of a university or college campus, such as library or student union building, classrooms, hallways, administration offices, and other common areas. For certainty, public areas do not include student residences.
 - v. Common areas of a school or independent school as defined in *The Education Act, 1995*, excluding home schools.
 - w. Licensed daycares, as defined in *The Child Care Act, 2014*.
 - x. Train stations, bus stations, bus shelters, ferry terminals, and airports.
 - y. Ride share services, carpools, and public transportation, including buses, cabs, car services, shuttles, and transportation issued a permit pursuant to section 19(1)(c) of *The Alcohol Control Regulations, 2016*.
 - z. Common areas, such as elevators, lobbies, hallways or areas where more than one person works, in all workplaces that are not otherwise mentioned in subsections 1(a) to 1(y), including, but not limited to, businesses that the

public do not ordinarily have access to, construction sites, or manufacturing facilities.

- aa. Private dwellings, but only when in the dwelling to provide cleaning services or maintenance services.
3. Face coverings are not required for the following persons:
 - a. Persons aged 2 and under.
 - b. Persons aged 3 to 12 who are not reasonably able to wear a face covering.
 - c. Persons who, in the determination of a health professional, are unable to wear a face covering due to a particular medical condition.
 - d. Persons who, due to cognitive impairment, an intellectual disability, or a severe mental health condition, are unable to understand the requirement.
 - e. The following persons, while speaking during a television or other media news interview or conference, but only when they can maintain a distance of 3 meters from other persons:
 - i. Municipal, provincial, or federal government officials.
 - ii. Media broadcasters.
 - f. Persons who are leading a service, ceremony, or other public event while speaking from a podium, lectern, platform, stage, desk or other standing or seating area dedicated to speaking, but only when the person can maintain a distance of 3 meters from other persons.
 - g. Persons playing a woodwind, brass, or other instrument operated by breath, but only if they can maintain a distance of 3 meters from other persons (as measured from the mouth or opening/bell end of the instrument, whichever is closest) to another individual while playing.
 - h. Players of the Western Hockey League (WHL) while participating in a hockey game or practice related to the WHL, for the duration of that activity only.
 - i. A person that is a singer and is identified in the Re-Open Saskatchewan Plan as being permitted to perform without a mask if in compliance with required measures for that activity as outlined in the plan.
 4. Face coverings are not required in the following circumstances:
 - a. Where the short-term removal of the face covering is necessary for the purposes of identifying a person.
 - b. Where it is necessary for a person to uncover their nose, mouth, or chin for the purposes of receiving a health or personal service, for the duration of the treatment or service only.
 - c. While seated and consuming food or a beverage in a restaurant, food court at a shopping centre or food store, bar, movie theatre or in any other location where food or beverages are served.
 - d. While participating in aquatic activities, for the duration of the activity only.
 - e. While providing personal support services to a person with a disability if wearing a face covering could hinder the ability of that person to receive the service, such as hindering that person's ability to lip read.
 - f. While alone in an area of an enclosed setting to which members of the public do not normally have access.
 - g. In a courthouse or courtroom, where wearing a face covering poses a security risk.

- h. In a proceeding before an administrative tribunal established by legislation or a court, where the decision-maker determines that removing the face covering is essential to ensure the integrity of the proceeding.
5. Face coverings are not required in the following enclosed settings:
- a. The private resident areas of the settings mentioned in subsections 2(a), 2(b), 2(c), 2(d).
 - b. Hotel rooms, motel rooms, bedrooms and private bathrooms in a bed and breakfast.

This order remains in effect until 12:01 a.m. on March 19th, 2021, or until, in the opinion of the Chief Medical Health Officer, there is no longer a public health threat, whichever shall first occur.

DATED at Regina, Saskatchewan, on the 18th day of February 2021.



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