



## COMMUNICATION

### Issue: Community Spaces

Updates have been made to the Public Health Orders under *The Public Health Act* to allow schools to rent spaces in other facilities, regardless of type.

The following is wording extracted from the November 19, 2020, Public Health Orders that permit an operator of a business or facility to allow a school to use its premises for instructional purposes:

*2(1) Except as otherwise permitted by these Orders, all persons are prohibited from assembling in a gathering of more than five persons at any indoor or outdoor public place.*

*2(2) This Order does not apply to a facility where health care or social services are provided or any part of a facility that is used by a public or private school for instructional purposes.*

*3(1) The operator of a business or facility must not rent, reserve or allow the business or facility to be used for a gathering that would contravene Order 2.*

The order below allows places of worship to be used by a public or private school for instructional purposes.

*15(4) This Order does not prevent the premises of a place of worship from being used by a public or private school for instructional purposes, by a daycare, or for the delivery of health care or social services.*

For the 2020/21 school year, school divisions are advised that they do not need to seek Ministerial approval to lease/rent space on a short-term basis (until the end of the school year) for purposes of their COVID-19 response. Selection of short-term spaces should be done in a manner that ensures student safety as a first priority and all facilities must be used in a manner consistent with their capacity requirements and the Restoring Safe Schools Guidelines. School Divisions should ensure that the facility rental/lease agreement allows for access to all required means of egress, and the school division is to continue to manage the process of safety drills in a manner similar to that used in regular school facilities.

All space should be procured in accordance with the school division's current procurement policies. Additional costs associated with leasing/renting additional space should be reported to the department through the existing monthly reporting mechanisms.

## RELEVANT WEB LINKS

*Orders under The Public Health Act – COVID-19 Prevention Orders*, November 19, 2020.  
[www.manitoba.ca/asset\\_library/en/proactive/2020\\_2021/orders-soe-11192020.pdf](http://www.manitoba.ca/asset_library/en/proactive/2020_2021/orders-soe-11192020.pdf)

Please forward questions and inquiries to [educovid19@gov.mb.ca](mailto:educovid19@gov.mb.ca).

Additional information is available on the Manitoba Education COVID-19 website at [www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/covid/latest.html](http://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/covid/latest.html).