

**MANITOBA GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS
AND ACTIONS ON COVID-19**

The following list captures the announcements made by government over the course of the emergency:

Emergency and Government Response

- Emergency Measures Organization begins tracking COVID-19 as a potential emergency and issues its first situation note on Jan. 23.
- Health System Incident Command Structure established on Feb. 3 to lead co-ordinated response across provincial health partners.
- First presumptive case of COVID-19 in Manitoba announced on March 12.
- Expanded government response structure, including daily meetings of ministers, deputy ministers and government staff implemented, in addition to Health Incident Command, on March 13.
- Announced that all schools would close for three weeks, from March 23 through April 12. This two-week extension to spring break was announced on March 13 to allow schools and students one week to prepare for distance learning.
- Emergency Measures Organization elevates COVID-19 response to a 'Level 1' emergency on March 16.
- Announced on March 17 that all licensed child-care spaces would close effective March 23, to align with school closures.
- Announced new work-from-home provisions for public services on March 17, and increased capacity for staff to connect to government systems remotely.
- State of emergency announced on March 20 including public health orders limiting gatherings of 50+, closing specific types of businesses and limiting restaurant capacity.
- Emergency Measures Organization elevates COVID-19 response to a 'Level 2' emergency on March 23.
- Last day of classes in Manitoba schools was March 23.
- Public Health changed its orders to reduce social gathering to 10 people from 50, effective Monday, March 30. Announced March 27.
- Changes to operations at the border and in airports to encourage self-isolation for inter-provincial and international travellers was announced March 27.

- New Public Health Order issued restricting operations of non-critical businesses on March 30.
- All restaurants and other commercial facilities that serve food are prohibited from serving food to customers in their premises.
- All businesses that are not listed in the schedule of critical services that accompanies the order must close between April 1 and April 14.

Health System Investments

- Manitoba's participation in a national procurement for personal protective equipment (PPE) was announced on March 10, including the order of \$35.2 million of equipment, the first province to place an order.
- The first testing sites were opened at Access Fort Garry and Access Winnipeg West on March 12.
- New testing sites were opened at Mount Carmel Clinic and Access Transcona on March 13.
- Upgrades to Health Links–Info Santé were announced, which tripled capacity and allowed more than 100 callers at a time. Announced March 13.
- New low-acuity testing site opened at Health Services Centre in Winnipeg on March 14.
- New testing site opened in Thompson on March 16.
- New testing site opened in Brandon, announced on March 17.
- New online self-screening tool launched on March 17.
- New testing sites in Flin Flon and The Pas were announced on March 17.
- New drive-thru testing site was opened in Selkirk on March 18.
- The procurement of an additional 27 additional ventilators announced on March 19.
- New drive-thru testing site opened in south Winnipeg on March 20.
- New drive-thru testing site opening in Steinbach on March 20.
- French version of online self-screening tool available on March 20.
- Addition of voice response (IVR) added to the online screening tool on March 21.
- New drive-thru testing site in Winkler announced on March 25.
- Expanded testing criteria on March 26 to include symptomatic people, regardless of travel history, if they are health-care workers or live/work in isolated or group settings, correctional facilities, shelters, long-term care or residential facilities or remote work camps.

- Announced new testing sites in Eriksdale, Pine Falls and a drive-thru site in Portage la Prairie on March 26, to open in coming days.

Business and the Economy

- Supplement to Budget 2020 was released, including fiscal flexibility to respond to COVID-19, on March 19. This included nearly \$1 billion in financial flexibility including an increase of the rainy day fund to \$800 million.
- Tax filing deadlines were extended for small and medium-sized businesses with monthly remittances of up to \$10,000 on March 22. This is expected to support more than 20,000 businesses.
- Funding support for COVID-related research announced by Research Manitoba on March 23 (\$800,000).
- Called on Canada to assist provinces with borrowing during the emergency period, to reduce borrowing costs and increase capacity at the provincial level. Also announced delayed implementation of PST reduction and new Green Levy on March 26.
- A temporary exception to Employment Standards regulations to ensure temporary layoffs after March 1 do not convert to a termination was announced on March 27.

Support for Manitobans

- Funding support for child-care services for critical service providers was announced on March 20 that included \$18 million for the creation of new independent child-care spaces, a \$7.6 million continuation of child-care operating grants and \$2 million for a capital grants trust, for a total of \$27.6 million.
- www.HelpNextDoorMB.ca launched on March 23 to connect people in need with local volunteers. During its first week of operations, 5,429 users signed up with users in over 145 different cities and towns in Manitoba with 152 help requests matched.
- All non-urgent eviction hearings postponed and scheduled rent increases suspended on March 24.
- Announced the Manitoba Pharmacare deductible will not go up, will remain at 2019 levels, announced on March 25.
- A new digital service for mental health support was announced on March 27, to be launched in the coming weeks.