



**NL COVID-19 Alert Level System:
Implications for Municipalities**

Alert Level	Public Health Measures	Municipal Operations
All	<p>The COVID-19 Alert Level System provides Newfoundlanders and Labradorians with an overview of the steps that will be taken as public health measures change. We will move through the Alert Levels as required by Public Health guidance, with continued monitoring of COVID-19 in our communities. We may move up or down Alert Levels as needed.</p> <p>Learn about the COVID -19 Alert Level System at https://www.gov.nl.ca/covid-19/alert-system/, https://www.gov.nl.ca/covid-19/files/Detailed-summary-table-of-COVID-19-Alert-Level-System-graphic.pdf, https://www.gov.nl.ca/covid-19/files/Summary-Table-of-COVID-19-Alert-Level-System-graphic.pdf</p> <p>General information related to COVID-19 at https://www.gov.nl.ca/covid-19/</p> <p>Learn about COVID-19 vaccine information at : https://www.gov.nl.ca/covid-19/vaccine/files/NL-COVID19-Immunization-Plan-1.pdf</p> <p>Follow public health guidance for all Alert Levels:*</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow Public Health Guidance for All Alert Levels. • If you have COVID-19 symptoms, use the online COVID-19 Assessment and Referral tool or call 811 if you do not have internet access. • Outdoor activities, including walking, hiking, or snowshoeing, are encouraged as long as physical distancing can be maintained between household bubbles and you are not required to self-isolate for any reason. • Staying informed and being prepared to follow public health advice. • Practicing good hygiene (wash your hands, avoid touching your face, cough and sneeze into your sleeve or a tissue). • Maintaining a physical distance of at least 2 arm lengths. Use a non-medical or cloth mask when physical distancing cannot be maintained. • Frequent cleaning and disinfection of high-touch surfaces. • Staying at home and away from others when you are sick, unless it is to get medical attention. • Wearing a non-medical or cloth mask if you have symptoms when going out to access health care services. 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working from home, where possible. • Continuing to shop online and using curbside pickup, where possible. • Limiting non-essential travel in and outside of the province. • Keeping a log of when you go out in public and your interactions with others. <p>*NOTE: Any changes to these public health guidelines will be available here: https://www.gov.nl.ca/covid-19/alert-system/public-health-guidance-for-all-alert-levels/</p> <p>For a listing of the COVID-19 municipal circulars: https://www.mae.gov.nl.ca/for/covid-19_local_gov_ops.html</p>	
Level 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stay at home as much as possible, except to get essentials like groceries and medications. • With the exception of a single person household joining another household, limit contact with others to your immediate household bubble. <p>Public Spaces and Gatherings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funerals, burials, weddings, religious and cultural ceremonies are limited to no more than 5 people, including the officiant. • Public visitations and wakes are prohibited. • With the exception of a single person household joining another household, all other informal gatherings are limited to those individuals within the same household. <p>Recreational Activities:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alert Level 5 is the highest level with broad sweeping public health measures to protect the population. Public Health Orders are in place. • Public health officials are advising that travel within the province be restricted to <u>essential travel only</u>. <p>Governance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Governments have a legislative obligation to hold a minimum number of public council meetings. Therefore, they should make every effort to conduct their public meetings online or by phone. • Options for public meetings include live streaming, video conferencing or teleconferencing processes, thereby avoiding physical attendance. • Minutes must be completed for each public meeting. • Examples of video conferencing include Facebook Live, Zoom, Microsoft Teams, Skype, WebEx and Go To Meeting. • Local governments can also contact their respective service provider for teleconferencing access.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gym and fitness facilities are closed, including yoga studios, swimming pools, tennis and squash facilities, and arenas. • Dance studios and performance spaces are closed. <p>Health Care Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Private health care clinics are closed, except those of physicians and nurse practitioners. Closed clinics can offer urgent and emergent care, and virtual options can be offered for non-urgent care. • Visitor restrictions in health care are in place. • Orders in place for long term care, personal care homes, and assisted living facilities. • Non-urgent medical procedures and elective surgeries are postponed. <p>Businesses and Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retail stores that do not provide services essential to life, health or personal safety of individuals and animals are closed to in-person services. • Restaurants are closed for in-person dining (take-out, delivery and drive-thru options are still permitted). • Bars, lounges, bingo halls and cinemas are closed. • Personal service establishments are closed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local governments may choose which process to use, provided the public is given an opportunity to call in to the meeting and to listen to the proceedings. • By-Elections deferred until further notice. <p>Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local governments focus on critical operations / essential services identified by the municipality and continue practice physical distancing and avoid gatherings of people. • Essential services may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ water and sewage systems; ○ private roads; ○ Construction of public highways, sidewalks and bridges; ○ parking lots; ○ lighting; ○ name and numbering of streets/buildings; ○ waste collection/removal; ○ fire protection; ○ public transportation system; ○ cemeteries/crematoria; ○ snow clearing/maintenance of roads; ○ animal control; administrative services; ○ financial management; ○ economic development; ○ municipal planning; engineering. • Limit business-related visitors to essential services only. This may include tradespeople, pest control or compliance officers. Schedule visits and implementation of outside queuing is recommended, and post signage to remind visitors that masks are required in public indoor spaces.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NL has permitted household construction to continue. • Outdoor activities, including walking, hiking, or riding your bike, are encouraged for individuals/household bubbles as long as physical distancing can be maintained and you are not required to self-isolate for any reason. • Only public markets that provide services essential to life are permitted to open for in-person sales; therefore, capacity is limited to a maximum of 50 per cent of normal capacity, provided that physical distancing can be maintained. <p>Employer Responsibilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guidance on PPE for employers can be found here: https://www.gov.nl.ca/covid-19/files/Guidance-on-Personal-Protective-Equipment-PPE-for-Employers.pdf • The following memo provides guidance to fire departments: https://www.mae.gov.nl.ca/for/pdf/Memo_Fire_Departments_COVID-19.pdf • Workplaces are exempt from the limitations on the number of people in gatherings; however, physical distancing of two metres between individuals should be maintained as much as possible. Operations may need to be altered or postponed to maintain physical distancing. • It is preferable to have employees work from home, if possible. Only those who need to be physically present should come into the workplace and employees are required to wear cloth facemasks in accordance with the Special Measures Order (including the permitted exemptions). Conduct business remotely (e.g., conference calls, video conferences, email), whenever possible.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluate employee health when they start work. Sick employees should go home and call 811. Refer to COVID-19 Workplace Information here: https://www.gov.nl.ca/covid-19/files/Guidance-for-Workplaces.pdf
Level 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stay at home as much as possible, except to get essentials like groceries and medications. Work from home, where possible. You must stay within your household bubble whenever you are not at work or school. You can expand this to connect with immediate family where necessary, bring in caregivers, or support isolated people. <p>Public Spaces and Gatherings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gatherings at funerals, burials, weddings, religious and cultural ceremonies are expanded to 10 people with physical distancing. Public visitations and wakes remain prohibited. <p>Recreational Activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gym and fitness facilities, yoga studios, swimming pools, tennis and squash facilities, arenas, dance studios and performance spaces remain closed. Group and team sport, arts and recreation activities are suspended. <p>Health Care Services:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At Alert Level 4, our focus is to begin relaxing public health measures to allow more social and business activities, while minimizing the risk of outbreaks. Under this Alert Level, public health officials are advising that travel within the province be restricted to <u>essential travel only</u>. However, provincial ferry passengers will no longer be restricted to only essential travelers. The Province encourages ferry users to travel as infrequently as possible. <p>Governance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under Alert Level 4, councils may hold an in-person public council meeting provided the facility used can adhere to social distancing guidelines. Public Health recommends that the number attending should be limited to a maximum of 10, including staff, media and members of the general public. Council must ensure that citizens who are unable to attend the meeting are provided access to the proceeding. This can include video conferencing and/or teleconferencing. The public should be notified of such meetings and advised of the procedure to attend the meeting virtually or by telephone. By-elections will continue to be deferred until further notice. <p>Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Household waste collection, recycling, and bulk waste are permitted to continue as long as public health requirements are met.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional health authorities will begin to allow some health care services to resume. • Private health care clinics can reopen in accordance with guidelines. • Visitor restrictions in health care remain in place. • Visitation in long term care, personal care homes, and assisted living facilities will be expanded in accordance with guidelines. <p>Businesses and Services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child care services are expanded to full capacity. • Retail stores, including those in shopping malls, can open at 50 per cent capacity. • Personal service establishments can open in accordance with guidelines. • Bars, lounges, bingo halls and cinemas are closed. • Restaurants remain closed for in-person dining. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parks will be permitted to open with limited individual activities for which physical distancing can be maintained. Guidance on parks can be found here: https://www.gov.nl.ca/covid-19/information-sheets-for-businesses-and-workplaces/guidance-for-parks/ • Community Gardens can open https://www.gov.nl.ca/covid-19/files/COVID-19-Community-Gardens-FAQs.pdf • Beaches and trails/boardwalks are permitted to open, as long as the required distancing is maintained and signage is in place, where appropriate. • Dog parks are permitted to open, with restrictions including limiting the number of people in the parks at any point in time to permit appropriate physical distancing. • Municipalities may choose to open playground structures with public health measures in place, wherever possible, including: posted signage regarding physical distancing, regular cleaning and disinfection of frequently touched surfaces, and routine monitoring. • In-park food and beverage services are permitted to offer take-out, drive-thru and delivery only. • Dumping stations for septic waste are permitted to open, provided appropriate health guidelines are followed. • Campgrounds otherwise remain closed. Furthermore, due to the social interactions and gatherings that accompany camping activities and that social distancing precautions may be difficult to maintain, it is not recommended that camping in any form occur at this time. • Fire Departments can resume in-house training. Guidance for Fire Departments under Alert Level 4:

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		<p>https://www.gov.nl.ca/mae/files/Alert-Level-4-Fire-Department-Adjustment-Guidance.pdf</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Motorcades are permissible, provided health guidelines are followed https://www.gov.nl.ca/covid-19/individuals-and-households/guidance-on-motorcades/. However, parades involving First Responders are not permitted under this Alert Level. <li>• Community Museums and Historic Sites can operate as per the following: https://www.gov.nl.ca/covid-19/information-sheets-for-businesses-and-workplaces/community-museums-and-historic-sites/ <p>Other Activities/services not permitted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Group/team recreation and sports (football, basketball, hockey, soccer, volleyball, etc.). <li>• All recreational facilities within the park must remain closed (swimming pools, etc.). <li>• All community events that promote gatherings. <li>• All public services, such as interpretation services, children’s programming and community-based programming. <li>• Arenas remain closed. <li>• Marina facilities (i.e. clubhouses) where people congregate are not permitted to open (except washroom facilities); however, boat launches are permitted to open. <p>Employer Responsibilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to follow the public health guidelines. <li>• Information sheets for businesses and workplaces (refer to Alert Level 4) can be found here: : https://www.gov.nl.ca/covid-19/information-sheets-for-businesses-and-workplaces/

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Business supports can be found here: https://www.gov.nl.ca/covid-19/business-supports/
Level 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stay at home as much as possible. Those at higher risk of complications due to COVID-19 should not go out, except to get essentials like groceries and medications. Your household bubble can interact with up to 10 close, consistent contacts from outside your household (<u>Tight 10</u>). <p>Public Spaces and Gatherings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gatherings at funerals, burials, weddings, and religious and cultural ceremonies are limited to no more than 20 people, including the officiant. Physical distancing must be maintained <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public visitations are permitted, with one household bubble visiting at a time. Wakes are prohibited. <p>Recreational Activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gym and fitness facilities, yoga studios, swimming pools, tennis and squash facilities, arenas, and dance studios are permitted to open, in accordance with guidelines. Group and team sport, arts and recreation activities are suspended. Performance spaces remain closed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At Alert Level 3, our focus is to control transmission while further relaxing public health measures. <p>Governance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to use governance processes identified under Alert Level 4. The recommendation is to keep gatherings to 20 or fewer people while maintaining physical distancing. In addition, if possible, the preference is not to meet in person, but to continue to use technology to meet virtually, to avoid gatherings as much as possible. By-elections may proceed with all public health measures being followed, including plans for physical distancing, wearing of masks, hand hygiene, etc., and that arrangements be made for those individuals who are in isolation to vote. We would also recommend that municipalities engage public health if there are further questions as required. <p>Services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As noted above, a further opening of public spaces and the expansion of gatherings to a maximum of twenty (20) people. Rental Cabins and Cottages can operate as per the following: https://www.gov.nl.ca/covid-19/information-sheets-for-businesses-and-workplaces/rental-cabins-and-cottages/

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	<p>Health Care Services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional health authorities will continue to allow some health care services to resume. • Visitation in health care is expanded. • Further expansion of visitation in long term care, personal care homes, and assisted living facilities to be determined. <p>Businesses and Services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retail stores, including those in shopping malls, can increase capacity as long as physical distancing can be maintained. • Restaurants can re-open at 50% capacity provided physical distancing between adjacent seated patrons is maintained; buffets remain prohibited. • Bars, lounges, bingo halls and cinemas are closed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public markets can continue as per the following: https://www.gov.nl.ca/covid-19/information-sheets-for-businesses-and-workplaces/public-markets/ • Gyms and fitness facilities are permitted to open, with restrictions; • Arenas can open, with restrictions; • Indoor pools can open, with restrictions. <p>Employer Responsibility:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to follow the public health guidelines. • Guidance for businesses and workplaces (Refer to Alert Level 3): : https://www.gov.nl.ca/covid-19/information-sheets-for-businesses-and-workplaces/
Level 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People can move about more. • Those at higher risk of complications due to COVID-19 should stay at home as much as possible, except to get essentials like groceries and medications. • Further expansion of your household bubble will be determined based on current situation. <p>Public Spaces and Gatherings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expansion of size of gatherings at funerals, burials, weddings, religious and cultural ceremonies to be determined. Wakes remain prohibited. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At Alert Level 2, the focus is to control transmission while maintaining health system capacity throughout further re-opening of social and business activities. <p>Governance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further details on governance will be released as the province approaches Alert Level 2. • By-elections may proceed with all public health measures being followed, including plans for physical distancing, wearing of masks, hand hygiene, etc., and that arrangements be made for those individuals who are in isolation to vote. We would also recommend that municipalities engage public health if there are further questions as required.

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	<p>Recreational Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gyms and fitness facilities are permitted to open with some restrictions. • Performance spaces can reopen with reduced occupancy. • Group and team sport, arts and recreation activities restrictions will be based on current situation and evidence. <p>Health Care Services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional health authorities will continue to allow some health care services to resume. • Further expansion of visitation in health care to be determined. <p>Businesses and Services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bars, lounges, bingo halls and cinemas are permitted to open with reduced occupancy. • 	<p>Employer Responsibility:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level 2 guidance for businesses and workplaces will be released at a later date.
Level 1	<p>Lifting long-term public health measures will depend on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluation of transmission patterns of COVID-19; • Availability of an effective vaccine and/or treatment; and • A strong public health system. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alert Level 1 is the new normal. There will still be restrictions in place at this level (To be determined at a later date).

For trusted information on COVID-19, please visit

<https://www.gov.nl.ca/covid-19/>

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