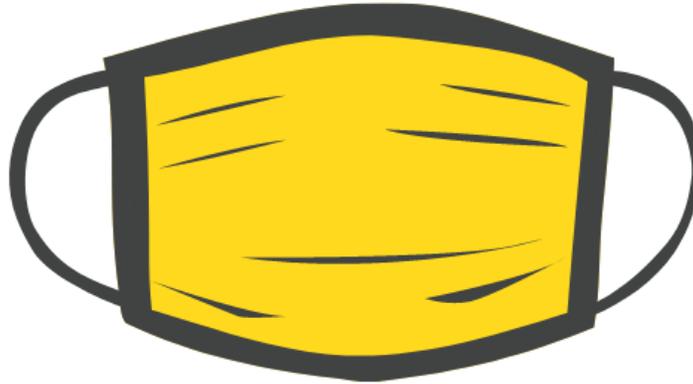




## News Release

For Immediate Release



### **ADDITIONAL COVID-19 MEASURES TAKEN IN ALTONA**

#### **Altona, MB. October 16, 2020:**

The Town of Altona will require masks within all indoor town facilities, starting on October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

Masks that cover the nose, mouth and chin without gapping will be required for the public to enter the Millennium Exhibition Centre, and the Altona Civic Centre. This decision was made by Town Council in their meeting on October 13<sup>th</sup> as a measure to keep staff and the community safe while keeping facilities open to the public.

The decision also aligns with Return to Play protocols from Hockey Manitoba and Skate Canada Manitoba, which require participants to wear masks within arenas such as the Millennium Exhibition Centre. Mandating masks in that facility will create consistency for all users.

"There is a time to lead, and a time to follow," said Mayor Al Friesen. "That's how council members approached the most recent discussion regarding the use of masks. And overwhelmingly council and staff felt that the wearing of masks

requirement would provide additional safety for our staff, consistent with our user groups who have already mandated the use of masks.”

Mayor Friesen continued, “the recent surge of COVID cases in Manitoba was also a factor in our decision, prompting the comment, do we wait and react when those increased cases arrive here? Or do we take concrete measures now? We ultimately decided that standing on the sidelines was not in the best interests of the community, and together with the endorsement of administration, we proceeded.”

Face masks must be worn over the mouth, nose and chin at all times with the following exemptions:

- Children under the age of five
- Individuals with medical conditions preventing them from safely wearing a mask
- Individuals who are unable to put on or take off a mask without assistance

Visitors to the facilities are permitted to temporarily remove their mask if they are:

- Receiving a service that requires removal of their mask
- Actively engaging in an athletic or fitness activity (e.g.: on the ice surface, running on the indoor track, participating in a fitness program)
- Consuming food or drink
- Needing to remove it for an emergency or medical purpose
- Establishing their identity
- Town staff who are working alone in a space with restricted access, such as a private office or open workspace with appropriate physical distancing measures in place, or travelling alone in a Town vehicle.

Disposable masks will be available for a limited time to help ease the transition.

The Altona Public Works Shop and the Altona Rhineland Emergency Services Fire Hall will remain closed to the public at this time.

Residents are reminded that most services at the Altona Civic Centre Administration Office can be accessed online, or over the phone if they would prefer not to enter the building.

***Please direct inquiries to:***

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