

COVID PROTOCOLS FOR ELECTION

The key to risk minimization is to keep the number of people reduced and the level of contact. Therefore, we will increase the polling locations to minimize contact.

A. IF THE PANDEMIC IS NOT SEVERE OR CAN BE MITIGATED

The following Rules apply even if we have received advice there is a nominal risk of infection

1. All workers will need to be fully vaccinated.
2. For polling locations, we will try to maximize high-ventilation give priority spaces.
3. No person who has tested positive within the preceding 14 days, or that is showing obvious symptoms, or that admits to symptoms will be admitted without a negative test. Test kits will be available at the polling location.
4. There will be barriers to separate workers from voters
5. Masks will be required to be worn by all workers, candidate representatives, candidates, and voters.
6. Additionally, workers and representatives will have face shields available and will wear gloves.
7. KN95 masks will be available for people who have not brought their own or if it appears less than satisfactory.
8. Voters will be required to stay 2m apart from each other with marked stations.
9. There will be single-use pencils or voters may use their own writing device
10. Workers will periodically sanitize the area; voters will be asked to use hand sanitizer upon entry.

For a more limited problem but beyond nominal risk add the following

11. A vaccination card will be required
12. Voters will not be allowed to loiter at all;
13. A greeter (security guard) will be placed in expected high volume areas;
14. There will be a restriction on the number of people in the polling place based upon size (and ventilation);
15. Unvaccinated people will be allowed to vote, but may have to wait. Unvaccinated people need to be the only people in the voting area designed for that purpose in high-traffic polling locations.
16. Door handles etc. will be sanitized more often

B. IF PANDEMIC CONTINUES AT HIGH NUMBERS

1. We should consider postponement of the election until it can be held under A above;
2. We should consider alternatives to in-person voting including expanded mail voting or electronic voting
3. NOTE APPLICATION OF THESE WOULD REQUIRE AMENDMENTS AND NOTICE

C. IF B IS NOT AN OPTION (this does not appear to be a challenge at this time)

1. All workers will need to be fully vaccinated
2. All of the restrictions in A will apply.
3. Expand the election period.
4. Desks for workers will be separated with separate shields
5. Guard will sanitize common areas (doorknobs, voting area, ballot receipt area) after each use.
6. Increased use of advance polls.
7. Expand the use of advance polls (this will require an amendment)
8. People with **any** symptoms (observed or reported) will require a rapid test on-site;

9. Persons who have travelled from outside Manitoba within 14 days will need a rapid test.
10. Unvaccinated will have a separate area with one person at a time.
11. Unvaccinated voters may require an appointment;
12. No same day registrations will be possible or a separate area for registrations will be necessary