



## Wetaskiwin's Manluk Centre and Civic Centre to Operate Under Restrictions Exemption Program as of Oct. 4

**Wednesday, September 29, 2021 (Wetaskiwin, Alberta)** – The Manluk Centre: Wetaskiwin Regional Aquatics & Fitness and the Civic Centre (Twin Arenas and Drill Hall) will be operating under the province's [Restrictions Exemption Program](#) (REP) as of Monday, October 4, 2021.

Wetaskiwin City Council voted to implement the Restrictions Exemption Program for these City facilities at their regular Sept. 27, 2021 meeting. Wetaskiwin City Hall is not able to participate in the REP due to its classification as an essential service. The City's Municipal Services office and main Fire Services office are closed to the public at this time — though anyone needing emergency fire response can continue to access this by calling 9-1-1. The Wetaskiwin Regional Airport office is also closed to the public, except for the pilot's lounge, which will need to adhere to the one-third capacity, masking, and physical distancing measures.

“Community and staff safety is our top priority,” stated City Manager Sue Howard. “Our community has been under an extreme amount of stress and finding ways for citizens to get back to normal is imperative. The Restrictions Exemption Program is one way we can help recreation users get back to their routines.”

City Council also made a motion for Administration to procure private security to support REP operations at the Manluk Centre and Civic Centre to a maximum of \$15,000 — funded from the City's contingency reserve. This pro-active step was taken to ensure the safety of staff working out of these locations following numerous incidents of facility users directing threatening behaviour and verbal assaults at City employees.

As of October 4, 2021, all individuals aged 18 or older must show proof of vaccination with accompanying photo identification to use the Manluk Centre or Civic Centre, **or** provide the following:

- A negative COVID test from within the last 72 hours (three days); or
- A medical exemption from a medical practitioner

Facility users ages 12 to 17 must also show proof of vaccination — though accompanying photo identification is not required — or supply a negative COVID test from within the previous 72 hours or proof of a medical exemption from a medical practitioner **unless** they are participating in activities or programs onsite. Currently, anyone under the age of 12 does not need to provide any vaccination documentation.

In order to continue safely delivering service to the community, the City of Wetaskiwin has requested that all City employees be fully vaccinated with a COVID-19 vaccine series by October 28, 2021. Employees who, by October 28, 2021, disclose that they have not received two doses of COVID-19 vaccine (or a single dose in the case of a single dose vaccine series), or who have not disclosed their vaccination status as requested, will be required to receive mandatory education on the benefits of vaccination and participate in weekly COVID-19 Rapid Testing demonstrating a negative result.

### Quick facts:

- Details on COVID-related impacts for Wetaskiwin—including impacts to City services—can be found on the City's COVID portal at [covidwetaskiwin.ca](https://www.wetaskiwin.ca/covid).
- The Restrictions Exemption Program (REP) permits businesses/entities/organizers to operate without the majority of public health restrictions listed in [CMOH Order 44-2021](#). The REP is an optional program, and operators who choose not to participate may continue to operate but must fully implement all the public health restrictions outlined in CMOH Order 44-2021.





- Council's discussion on the REP can be [viewed on the City's YouTube channel](#) as part of the regular recording of City Council meetings.

### **About the City of Wetaskiwin**

Wetaskiwin is a secure, connected, and inclusive community, home to a diverse population of nearly 13,000 people. Located only 30 minutes south of the Edmonton International Airport, the City of Wetaskiwin provides a high quality of life through ample recreation opportunities, diverse cultural activities, and a modernized, business-friendly downtown.

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