**Enhanced Public Health Measures**

A public health emergency was declared by the Province of Alberta in November 2020 and on January 29, 2021, the Government of Alberta released A Path Forward, its 4-step plan to ease COVID-19 public health restrictions. In this plan, mandatory work from home is expected to continue until at least Step 4 (anticipated date April 12, 2021).

**Indoor and Outdoor Social Gatherings**

Social gatherings are where people move freely around to associate, mix or interact with each other for social purposes. Effective December 8, 2020, no indoor social gatherings are permitted in any setting (private homes, public spaces or workplaces). As of January 18, outdoor social gatherings are limited to 10 people and all public health measures must be followed. See complete details and exceptions to this public health measure [here](#).

- **SHARED SPACES** - Lounges and lunchrooms should be used for the purposes of preparing or eating meals, not socializing afterward. A face covering must be worn when preparing meals, however may be removed when consuming food or drink. Given reduced occupancy in these rooms needed to achieve physical distancing, employees are asked to be considerate of other employees waiting to prepare or eat their meals. This can be achieved through staggered and scheduled use to effectively reduce occupants at any given time.

- **MEETINGS** - All meetings are to be conducted virtually unless an in person meeting is deemed operationally required. If it is deemed necessary to hold an in person meeting attendance must be limited and public health measures followed including 2 metre physical distancing and mandatory masking.
  - Work areas must assess if any outdoor gatherings have been planned and make arrangements to cancel/reschedule for the time being.

**Mandatory Work From Home**

Effective December 13, 2020 working from home is mandatory unless the employer requires a physical presence for operational effectiveness. It is expected that employees will work from home unless leadership has determined that their work must be conducted at a City of Edmonton location. It is the responsibility of leadership to determine who is absolutely required to be present at the City of Edmonton location and how often they are required to attend to meet operational effectiveness.

**Mandatory Mask Requirements**

Masks continue to be mandatory at all times in all indoor public places in Alberta, subject only to limited exceptions*. This includes all employees, visitors, delivery personnel and contractors at locations where workers are present. Complying with masking requirements is the law and it is a workplace requirement. This is in addition to any physical distancing practices that should be in place. For further information on the exceptions please refer to this [document](#).

*Exceptions*

Limited exceptions exist to allow for the temporary removal of a face mask. The exceptions applicable to persons in City facilities include:

- The person is alone at a workstation and separated by at least 2 metres distance from all others;
- The person is separated from every other person by a physical barrier that prevents droplet transmission;
- The person is consuming food or drink [they must be 2 metres away from others];
- The person is unable to wear a face mask due to a mental or physical health concern or limitation [this must be confirmed with Disability Management for employees]; or
- A hazard assessment determined the person's safety will be at risk if they wear a mask while working.