



COVID-19: Public Health Measures and COVID-19 Operational Plan



Retail businesses, restaurants, holiday events and volunteer organizations are required to implement public health measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and to protect their staff, volunteers and patrons.

All businesses and volunteer organizations must have a [COVID-19 Operational Plan](#) that outlines how they will ensure physical distancing, masking, cleaning and disinfecting, hand and respiratory hygiene, and screening for symptoms of COVID-19.

This includes the following holiday services and events:

- Holiday volunteer operations
- Gift wrapping booths
- Gift donation booths
- Food donation and distribution initiatives
- Santa visits
- Parades
- Ride share programs

Resources for businesses, organizations and service providers can be found on the [GNB website](#).

GENERAL HOLIDAY GUIDANCE FOR RETAILERS AND EVENT ORGANIZERS

- Masks are mandatory in all indoor public spaces.
- The number of patrons entering your facility must allow for physical distancing of 2 metres.
- Expect and enforce longer lineups outside your stores.
- Keep traffic flow minimal amongst patrons by using curb-side pickup, expanded hours, and online shopping.
- Staff should stay home if they are ill, have been told they need to self-isolate, and/or currently have COVID-19.
- Anyone with symptoms, can register for a test online by clicking 'Get tested' on the [GNB Coronavirus disease website](#) or can call Tele-Care 811 to get an appointment for a test.

A NOTE FROM THE CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH, DR. JENNIFER RUSSELL:

"As a business owner, event organizer or volunteer, the COVID-19 pandemic has added an additional layer of responsibility to the role you play in your community and the province at large. With the Holiday season upon us, this responsibility is only increasing with the stress of the season. Enforcing masking, physical distancing and having your COVID-19 operational plan ready are some of the ways you can help to combat the spread of COVID-19 in New Brunswick this Holiday season.

Thank you for helping us keep New Brunswick safe!"

PARADES:

- Adequate distancing between each parade float and participant group must be ensured.
- There may be up to 50 people per float/participant group with 2 metres physical distancing.
- A record of participants must be kept.
- Masks are required if distancing of 2 metres cannot be ensured indoors and outdoors for participants on floats or in the parade.
- Parade spectators should maintain 2 metre distance from others outside of their household bubble and wear a mask if this not possible. Masks are required at all times in indoor parades.
- Consider organizing an outdoor stationary parade. Parade floats would remain in one place while observers drive or walk by.
- Consider a parade in which observers are seated and parade floats enter and circle around an arena, then leave and allow the next float to enter.

GIFT WRAPPING BOOTHS:

- Shoppers can leave their gifts and payment on a table at a distance from the people working at the booth.
- Sanitize hands before wrapping each gift.
- After gift is wrapped, it should be put on a table where the person can pick it up from a distance from the person wrapping and other shoppers.

- Those at higher risk, such as older adults or people with underlying health conditions, should not be working at a gift-wrapping booth this Holiday season.

FOOD/GIFT DISTRIBUTION PROGRAMS:

- Food programs are encouraged to continue efforts to offer emergency food to households.
- When delivering food baskets or other gifts to a household, ensure hands are washed or sanitized before handling goods.
- Avoid or limit contact with person receiving the goods by leaving it at the entrance to the home.
- Donors may wish to consider giving charitable donations instead of food items.
- Those at higher risk, such as older adults or people with underlying health conditions, should not be delivering food baskets or other gifts to a households.

SANTA VISITS:

- Santa should talk to the child from a distance.
- Children are not permitted to sit on Santa's lap.
- Santa should wear a community face mask.

BUSINESSES SHOULD BE ABLE TO CHECK THAT THE FOLLOWING MEASURES ARE IN PLACE:

- COVID-19 Operational Plan
- Physical distancing measures
- Masking
- Cleaning and disinfecting
- Keeping count of patrons entering or exiting facility to ensure physical distancing
- Symptom screening at door / entrance
- Record keeping for participants attending seated venues is required to facilitate contact tracing (name, phone number, date, time)



CURRENT PUBLIC HEALTH ALERT LEVELS YELLOW/ORANGE/RED

- Alert levels and associated measures are determined by the Government of New Brunswick under the advice and guidance of the Chief Medical Officer of Health.
- Different regions of the province may be at different alert levels at a given time.
- Other restrictions may apply depending on the zone and alert level where you live. Please refer to [NB's recovery plan](#) for additional details.

YELLOW LEVEL

- Parades are permitted.
- Gift wrapping booths are permitted.
- Santa visits are permitted.
- Food programs are encouraged to continue efforts to offer emergency food to households.
- Passive screening of staff and patrons.
- Non-food businesses and public services, including retail, can operate under a COVID-19 Operational Plan.

HOLIDAY MEALS/EVENTS:

- Dining rooms may open with 2 metres physical distancing or physical barriers between tables and masks must be worn when not seated.

- Venues providing meals and events must keep a list of attendees and ensuring distancing and mask requirements are followed by staff/volunteers and guests.
- Public entertainment venues occupancy limit is set as per the size of the venue and the ability to ensure 1 metre physical distancing when seated with continuous mask use and record keeping. Distancing of 2 metres is required if food and beverage is served.
- Masks are required at all times indoors except when seated at a table while eating or drinking.

MUSICAL EVENTS, CHOIRS, CAROLING, FAITH-BASED CELEBRATIONS:

- In person services permitted.
- Distancing of 1 metre with continuous masking and NO singing allowed OR distancing of 2 metres with continuous masking and singing allowed.
- Singing is a high-risk activity as the chance of expelling drops of liquid that could contain COVID-19 increases.



ORANGE LEVEL

- Community face masks are mandatory in public spaces, both indoors and outdoors.
- Parades are not permitted.
- Santa visits are not permitted.
- Gift wrapping is not permitted.
- Food programs are encouraged to continue efforts to offer emergency food to households.
- Community meals and gatherings, celebrations, workplace parties, and parades are not permitted.
- Restaurant dining is restricted to single household bubble.
- In person faith services permitted with up to 50 participants, maximum of 25 people for weddings, funerals.
- Non-food businesses and public services, including retail, can operate under a COVID-19 Operational Plan.

RED LEVEL

- Community face masks are mandatory in public spaces, both indoors and outdoors.
- Parades are not permitted.
- Santa visits are not permitted.
- Gift wrapping booths are not permitted.
- Food programs are encouraged to continue efforts to offer emergency food to households.
- Community meals and gatherings, celebrations, workplace parties, and parades are not permitted.
- All food and beverage will be reduced to drive-thru, take-out and delivery.
- Non-food businesses and public services, including retail, can operate under a COVID-19 Operational Plan.
- Outdoor (drive-in) religious services are permitted. Another alternative would be to record and broadcast religious services online or on television.

