



DATE: December 9, 2020

TO: Depot Network

RE: **Updated Mandatory COVID-19 Measures - Impact on Depots**

Attention Depot operators and staff:

The BCMB is continuing to monitor developments related to COVID-19 and support Depots in Alberta as much as possible during this difficult time. The health and safety of the Depot network and the Albertans we serve continues to be our top priority. The BCMB recognizes that this is a difficult time for businesses and individuals, and we appreciate your ongoing support as you provide an essential service that Albertans rely on.

Yesterday, Premier Jason Kenney announced new [mandatory public health measures](#) to protect the health system and slow the spread of COVID-19 in Alberta. These mandatory restrictions apply province-wide and will be in place at least until January 12, 2021.

Mandatory Masks Province-wide

Effective immediately province-wide, **masks are mandatory in all indoor workplaces**, except when working alone in an office, a safely distanced workspace or where an appropriate barrier is in place. This applies to all employees, visitors, delivery personnel and contractors. It includes all locations where employees are present and where masks will not pose a safety risk. As most Depots staff are already wearing masks, this should not be new, but please note their use is now mandatory province-wide.

Depots Non-Restricted Businesses

The BCMB has confirmed that Depots are still considered an essential service and are part of the Government of Alberta's non-restricted business category. While this means Depots are exempt from the capacity limit of 15% occupancy set under the Alberta Fire Code for retail businesses, you must still follow [general and sector-specific guidance](#) and have enhanced infection prevention and controls in place as you have since the pandemic began.





It remains extremely important that Depots remain vigilant with your health and safety measures to protect your staff and customers. Please remember you may be visited at any time by Alberta Health Services (AHS) or BCMB Compliance Officers. The BCMB trusts you will continue to use your best judgment while serving the public and ensure safety precautions remain a priority.

COVID Response Plan

As an ongoing reminder, the BCMB encourages Depots to be prepared and consider having a COVID Response Plan in place. [Alberta Health Services](#) (AHS) should be your first contact if you or one of your employees tests positive for COVID-19. They will be able to guide you through any steps you will need to take to prevent further transmission and to meet public health orders and guidelines.

If you suspect that an employee may have contracted COVID-19 or if they confirm they have tested positive, please immediately submit a “Positive COVID-19 Case at Depot” Quality Monitoring System (QMS) ticket with as much detail as possible. This will allow us to stay informed and work together to prevent further transmission.

As noted earlier, Depots may choose to reduce hours of operation, close temporarily or offer an alternative service solution. We encourage each Depot to make the choice you feel is best for your customers and your staff. If you choose to reduce your hours or temporarily close, please advise us by submitting a ticket through the QMS. **If you have already made changes to your operating hours or closed your Depot and have not yet informed the BCMB, please submit a QMS ticket as soon as possible.**

If you need assistance logging into the QMS, or if you have any questions, please contact a Compliance Officer using the information under the Contact Us page on our website:

<https://www.bcmb.ab.ca/contact/>

Thank you for your ongoing cooperation and commitment to keeping your customers and staff safe.

