

*Tabled by the  
Speaker  
2020-03-26*

**Special Measures Order (Exemption Order)**

**Made pursuant to Section 28 of the  
Public Health Protection and Promotion Act**

March 25, 2020

TO: All Members and employees of the House of Assembly

**WHEREAS:**

- A. While a declaration of a public health emergency is in effect, the Chief Medical Officer of Health may do one or more of the special measures authorized under section 28 of the **Public Health Protection and Promotion Act** for the purpose of protecting the health of the population and preventing, remedying or mitigating the effects of the public health emergency;
- B. On March 18, 2020, the Minister of Health and Community Services, on the advice of the Chief Medical Officer of Health, declared:
  - (i) a public health emergency as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic;
  - (ii) the public health emergency is in effect for the entire province of Newfoundland and Labrador; and
  - (iii) the public health emergency is in effect for a period of 14 days effective immediately;
- C. The Chief Medical Officer of Health made a Special Measures Order effective March 23, 2020 whereby gatherings of more than 10 people are prohibited;
- D. In accordance with section 13 of the **Public Health Protection and Promotion Act**, restrictions to an individual's rights or freedoms must be no greater than is reasonably required in the circumstances to respond to the public health emergency;
- E. The Chief Medical Officer of Health believes that it is appropriate for certain Members and employees of the House of Assembly to be exempted from the prohibition on gatherings of more than 10 people, for the purpose of reconvening the House of Assembly to adopt legislation necessary for the protection of the interests of the people of the province during the public health emergency, while still maintaining measures to protect the health of the population;

Pursuant to section 28 of the **Public Health Protection and Promotion Act**, I, Dr. Janice Fitzgerald, Chief Medical Officer of Health, **HEREBY MAKE THE FOLLOWING EXEMPTION TO THE PROHIBITION ON GATHERINGS OF MORE THAN 10 PEOPLE:**

1. Asymptomatic Members and asymptomatic employees of the House of Assembly are exempted from the requirement to limit gatherings to more than 10 people.
2. The total number of members and employees permitted in the House of Assembly at any one time shall not exceed 15 people.
3. All individuals subject to this Exemption Order are to practice appropriate social distancing, closely self-monitor for symptoms of COVID-19, and self-isolate should symptoms develop. Please see: [gov.nl.ca/covid-19](http://gov.nl.ca/covid-19) for more detailed information.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED THAT:**

1. This Exemption Order is in effect on March 26, 2020 only.
2. All other orders in the Special Measures Order effective March 23, 2020 remain in full force and effect.

**TAKE NOTICE THAT:**

1. Failure to comply with this order may result in an application to the Supreme Court, in accordance with section 42 of the **Public Health Protection and Promotion Act** to enforce the relevant provisions of this Order.
2. A person who is subject to an order made by the Chief Medical Officer of Health may request that the Chief Medical Officer of Health reconsider the order by filing a written request for reconsideration within 7 days after the day on which the order is served on a person. A written request for review or reconsideration of this order shall include:
  - (i) the reasons for the request;
  - (ii) a summary of the facts relevant to the request;
  - (iii) whether the order should be revoked or how it should be varied; and
  - (iv) the contact information of the person making the request and shall be sent to the following address:

The Chief Medical Officer of Health  
Department of Health and Community Services  
PO Box 8700  
St. John's, NL A1B 4J6

3. The Chief Medical Officer of Health shall review this Order no less than once every 5 days while the Order is in effect.
4. This Order remains in effect during any review or reconsideration.
5. Failure to comply with this Order is an offence for which you may be liable on summary conviction in accordance with section 56 of the *Public Health Protection and Promotion Act*.
6. For greater certainty, compliance with this Order is required in addition to and not in substitution for any requirement imposed by or under any applicable law.

Signed at St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador, this 25<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2020.

  
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Dr. Janice Fitzgerald  
Chief Medical Officer of Health