

## Manluk Centre to close following New Provincial Restrictions

May 7, 2021

(Wetaskiwin, Alberta) – The *Manluk Centre: Wetaskiwin Regional Aquatics & Fitness* will close to the public, starting ~~May 10, 2021~~ May 8, 2021, until further notice due to newly announced provincial restrictions. **\*Closure date was updated May 7, 2021 due to new information received from the provincial government\***

With active COVID-19 cases on the rise—including the arrival of highly transmissible variants—the province has announced additional restrictions for [regions](#) with at least 50 cases per 100,000 people and at least 30 active cases. Unfortunately, the City of Wetaskiwin currently falls into both those categories. These restrictions will be in place for at least 3 weeks and may be extended if necessary.

“Although it is unfortunate to see another closure, we are dedicated to doing our part to help keep the community safe,” said Natasha Grant, Manager of Recreation. “Our team looks forward to welcoming everyone back to the activities they love once it’s safe to do so.”

City Council meetings will continue to be held virtually from council chambers in City Hall. Currently only the Mayor, Council, and a select few City staff attend these meetings in-person with the public encouraged to attend virtually.

The new restrictions focused on a wide variety of different sectors across the province. More details about the specific restrictions being imposed can be found on the [Provincial website](#). A current tally of COVID-19 cases in Alberta can also be found on the [Provincial website](#).

### History of facility closures during the COVID-19 pandemic

- At a special Council meeting on March 17, 2020, Council passed a motion to [close all remaining City buildings](#) to the public due to concerns with the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The City announced a [re-opening timeline](#) for City facilities.
- The City of Wetaskiwin closed the Manluk Centre on August 21, 2020 immediately after receiving notification from Alberta Health Services that a [City employee](#) had tested positive for the COVID-19 virus. Shortly after, a [second City employee](#) tested positive for the COVID-19 virus without further spread to other employees.
- The aquatics & fitness areas of the facility [re-opened](#) to patrons September 5, 2020.
- The Manluk Centre was again [closed](#) due to AHS public health restrictions on December 13, 2020.
- The aquatics & fitness areas [re-opened](#), with limited household bookings available, on March 29, 2021.

The City will continue to provide updates on its [municipal website](#) and [COVID portal](#). Interested in receiving email notifications about local COVID-19-related news and updates? Sign up at [covidwetaskiwin.ca](#).

**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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