

## **Questions & Answers related to Open Water Fishing and Public Health Orders**

**UPDATED JUNE 11, 2021**

**SUBJECT TO CHANGE AS PUBLIC HEALTH ORDERS CHANGE**

**Is fishing allowed under the new public health orders, which are in effect on June 12, 2021?**

Yes. Outdoor activities such as angling can continue and are not prohibited under the Orders of the Public Health Act.

Outdoor gatherings are restricted to 5 persons. However, anglers are strongly encouraged to limit their groups to members of a single household.

Anglers who are not from the same household are encouraged to maintain a minimum separation of at least two metres from each other. This means travelling in separate vehicles and/or all-terrain vehicles is recommended. A mask should be worn if anglers cannot physically distance at common outdoor locations such as boat launches and other waterbody access points.

For more information, please consult the provincial website for information on current restrictions under the Pandemic Response System:

<https://www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/restartmb/prs/index.html>

**Can I travel outside Manitoba to go fishing?**

Manitobans that travel outside of Manitoba to engage in recreational angling would be required to self-isolate for 14 days at their residence upon returning to Manitoba, unless exempt through an immunization card. Prior to travel, Manitobans should be aware and follow all public health orders in the jurisdiction they plan to travel to.

**Can people from outside Manitoba travel into Manitoba to go fishing?**

Anyone travelling into Manitoba to go fishing will be required to self-isolate for 14 days upon arrival, unless exempt under the public health orders. Individuals requiring to self-isolate must travel directly to a home, hotel or other residence where they intend to reside.

Non-Manitobans who reside in areas that are close to the Manitoba border and who regularly travel into Manitoba can attend to their property in Manitoba, but they are not able to recreate beyond their property and therefore are not allowed to go fishing in Manitoba without first self-isolating for 14 days, unless exempt under the public health orders. Additionally, all non-Manitobans that don't reside in an area close to the border and who don't regularly travel into Manitoba as noted above or don't meet the exemptions under the order must ensure they have completed a mandatory self isolation order of 14 days in southern Manitoba prior to entering northern Manitoba and be free of any COVID-19 symptoms.

Non-Manitoban Indigenous people who reside in areas that are close to the Manitoba border and enter into Manitoba to exercise their Aboriginal and Treaty rights to harvest food are exempt from self isolating and must be free of COVID-19 symptoms, travel directly to their intended destination and limit their use of local services to the minimum required, given the circumstances of the visit.

### **Can I travel within Manitoba to go fishing?**

Travel to Northern Manitoba (north of the 53<sup>rd</sup> parallel) is restricted, unless a person is exempt under the public health orders.

The public health order allows Manitoba residents from Southern Manitoba to travel to Northern Manitoba to attend a cottage/cabin/provincial park/campground/hunting or fishing lodge, as long as they are free of COVID-19 symptoms, travel directly to their intended destination and limit their use of local services to the minimum required, given the circumstances of the visit.

The public health order **does not** allow travel from Southern Manitoba into Northern Manitoba for a day trip for fishing. If Manitobans travel north and stay at a cottage/cabin/provincial park/campground/hunting or fishing lodge overnight then it would be permissible. Individuals should follow all other public health orders such as wearing a mask in indoor public spaces. Only members from one household can be in the same cabin/unit.

### **Can I continue to sell bait, tackle and other products related to hunting, trapping and angling?**

Yes, angling, hunting and trapping products can continue to be sold by retailers who remain open. Retail businesses must follow all public health restrictions in place.

### **Can I use angling guide services from licenced angling outfitters?**

Yes, licenced angling outfitters can provide guide services; however, outfitters and guides must follow all public health restrictions.

Outdoor gatherings are restricted to 5 persons. As such, guided groups must remain at 5 people or less, including the guide. It is strongly encouraged that groups are limited to members from one household.

Anglers who are not from the same household are encouraged to maintain a minimum separation of at least two metres from each other. This means travelling in separate vehicles and/or all-terrain vehicles is recommended. A mask should be worn if anglers cannot physically distance at outdoor locations such as boat launches and waterbody access points.

## Can I visit a fishing lodge?

Yes, fishing lodges can remain open and are not prohibited under the Orders of the Public Health Act; however, lodges must follow all public health restrictions in place.

A mask must be worn in all indoor public areas of the lodge. It is recommended that a mask be worn in public outdoor areas if a distance of two meters cannot be maintained between people not from the same household. Guest should ensure that they limit their contacts to individuals from their household only.

## Do I have to dispose of bait after fishing within an [Aquatic Invasive Species \(AIS\) Control Zone](#)?

The department and all water resource users have a responsibility to stop the spread of AIS across Manitoba. Anglers must ensure AIS and water is not transferred from one waterbody to another. As well, set fines for AIS offenses are in effect year-round.

When using bait in an AIS Control Zone, only bring the live bait you are going to use on that water body.

Any bait you take with you to an AIS Control Zone MUST be discarded BEFORE you leave the shore if it:

- live
- has been handled (i.e., hooked )
- has come into contact with surface water from the control zone.

Anglers cannot kill live bait in an AIS Control Zone and then remove it for any future use.

These live-bait disposal requirements applies even if you have a valid 3-day live bait fish-transfer-and-use receipt. Also all water from the bait container must be drained before leaving the shore.

Only commercially-supplied dead bait used on an AIS Control Zone can be retained by anglers for future use IF it has NOT:

- been handled (i.e., hooked) or
- come into contact with surface water