



HARVEST

Manitoba Food Bank
Network Bulletin



December 2020

Disposable Masks

With a generous donation of disposable masks from MedSup Canada, Harvest Manitoba is excited to share them with you to help keep you safe. Food banks will receive boxes of masks for each household you serve and two boxes for use by volunteers at your food bank.

Harvest Food & Equipment Grant

Seventy (70) agencies applied for over \$275,000 worth of grants! We are happy to announce we are distributing \$162,000 and all agencies received at least partial funding. The funding will reach throughout Manitoba including Churchill, The Pas, Ashern, Dauphin, Grunthal, Erikson, Brandon and agencies throughout Winnipeg.

Share your thanks and stories

As a member of our Food Network, please add our new Harvest Manitoba logo to your website to reflect our contribution to your organization. Also feel free to share your stories with us and encourage clients to do the same. Personal stories, or a story about the masks or grants received are just a few ideas. They are a powerful way for us to highlight our collective impact to our donors and partners -

<https://www.harvestmanitoba.ca/choices/share-your-story/>

New COVID-19 Provincial Health Orders

New Provincial Health Orders were released on December 10 and they affirm the essential work of food banks in our province. Order 17 reads: "Food banks and other charities or groups that provide or distribute food or hampers to persons in need may operate if measures are implemented to ensure that staff, volunteers and members of the public are reasonably able to maintain a separation of at least two meters from others while at their premises."

Here are a few suggestions to keep the two-meter distance between clients and volunteers:

1. Double up tables so there is greater distance between volunteers and clients.
2. Use spray paint, chalk, cones, flags or signs to indicate where clients should stand while they wait.
3. Remind clients that food hampers are all the same, so they do not all have to come at the start time. Normally by coming later contact with others is decreased and you have to wait less time in the cold.
4. Have stations spread a part where different clients can receive their food hamper.
5. Allow only one family member into your building.
6. Limit the number of people in your building at one time.



HARVEST STAR

Riverton and District Friendship Centre's Food Bank opened back in 2005 and has been running successfully ever since. It is located about 30 minutes north of Gimli, Manitoba and provides Harvest Hampers to anyone residing in the Bifrost-Riverton municipality.



Hampers are available every second Wednesday from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm, first come first served. Tanis Grimolfson is the Executive Director of the Food Bank and runs numerous other programming in the Friendship Centre throughout the year. She is currently gearing up for the holiday season where they provide hampers for over 30 households in the area.

In June of last year, the Food Bank moved from a small storage space in the Friendship Centre, to a much larger building within walking distance away. This provided them with more room for storage, we well as expanding their program to include a low-expense thrift store for the town.

Harvest Manitoba is proud to have such devoted and amazing volunteers like Tanis and her team to help those struggling over the holidays.



Cold Weather Precautions

With the indoor COVID restrictions and cold weather upon us clients will receive the message below when they call or email us for a food bank appointment. Encourage your clients to come at staggered times to avoid people waiting outside in the cold.



REMINDER:

Please remember to wear a mask when you attend your food bank appointment. With cold weather upon us and limits to people indoors, remember to ask your food bank how long they are open so you do not have to show up right at the start time. Food is pre-packaged so all people receive the same amount of food whether they are the first or last. Expect to wait outside and wear appropriate clothing.

Training

Non-violent Crisis Intervention (NCI) is available to our partner agencies' staff and volunteers free of charge. Our training dates for 2021 include Jan. 21-22 or Jan 30-31. If interested or have questions contact Anthony.

Closing over Christmas

If you are closing your food bank over Christmas please remind clients of your closure and encourage them to contact our Client Services Department (204.982.3660 or appointments@harvestmanitoba.ca) to book an appointment at another food bank.

Agency Pickup - New Procedures

1. If you are showing any COVID-19 symptoms, do not come to Harvest. Use the online screening tool to determine next steps: <https://sharedhealthmb.ca/covid19/screening-tool/>
2. Buzz the intercom by door 6 BEFORE you enter the building.
3. Only ONE person per agency will be able to enter the warehouse for pick-ups. Others must wait outside. Harvest volunteers and staff can provide loading assistance.
4. Wear a mask on entry.
6. All guests must now complete a COVID-19 form.
7. All guests must not wander through the warehouse without a volunteer and staff.
8. Wash/sanitize your hands-on entry.

Happy Holidays!

One of the real joys of the season is the opportunity to send you, our Harvest Star, gratitude and heartfelt thanks for your warm heart and generous spirit. Thank you for all that you do for your community. Happy Holidays and all the best in the new year!

Attachments

New logo

New Kit Count Sheet

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