



**LETTER RESCINDING MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH INSTRUCTIONS FOR WORKPLACES  
UNDER THE *REOPENING ONTARIO (A FLEXIBLE RESPONSE TO COVID-19) ACT, 2020***

**DATE:** January 31, 2022

**EFFECTIVE:** Immediately

**TO:** All persons responsible for a business or organization (workplace) in Halton Region, where workers (including employees, those hired under third party agencies, contractors, vendors, volunteers or students and any other such persons) are present at the workplace or the public are regularly present, with the exception of:

- Licensed child care programs that are in compliance with re-opening guidance issued by the Ministry of Education;
- Day camps for children and overnight camps for children that are in compliance with the safety guidelines for COVID-19 issued by the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health (CMOH);
- Health care providers and health care entities as defined in Section 77.7 of the [Health Protection and Promotion Act](#) (HPPA) who are subject to the CMOH's directives issued under the HPPA, other than the portion of premises used for the sale of goods that are neither medication nor health related supplies in pharmacies;
- Schools and school boards licensed under the *Education Act*; and
- Schools and private schools within the meaning of the *Education Act*, that are operated in accordance with a return to school direction issued by the Ministry of Education and approved by the Office of the CMOH.

Effective January 3, 2022, in response to the highly transmissible Omicron variant of COVID-19 which had resulted in steep climbs in case numbers across the province and related capacity challenges for both our public health resources (including access to COVID-19 testing) and acute care health system, Ontario introduced more restrictive public health measures by moving the province into modified Step 2, governed by [Ontario Regulation 263/20](#) under the *Reopening Ontario (A Flexible Response to COVID-19) Act, 2020*. The Chief Medical Officer of Health has also directed a shift in provincial and local public health officials' case and contact management to focus on highest risk settings.

While all workplaces will continue to play a critical role in reducing the risk of COVID-19 transmission in Halton Region, I have determined that my workplace instructions (first issued in May 2021 and last updated effective October 26, 2021) are no longer necessary and shall be rescinded.

I thank you once again for your ongoing efforts to comply with public health requirements and seek your continued goodwill and compliance with the provincial Step 2 Rules and all advice and recommendations of public health officials that apply to your workplace – all of which will continue to evolve. Relevant resources include:

- Halton Region Public Health: [COVID-19 Resources for Businesses](#)
- Ministry of Health: [COVID-19 and Workplace Health and Safety](#)
- Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development: [Workplace Resources to Prevent COVID-19](#)

This letter rescinding instructions shall be posted at: [halton.ca/COVID19](https://halton.ca/COVID19).

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