

COVID-19 Public Health Guidance: Indoor Entertainment and Attractions

Last Updated September 17, 2021

This document outlines guidance for owners and operators of indoor entertainment facilities and attractions, including concerts, artistic events, theatrical productions, performances, movie theatres, casinos, bingo halls, gaming establishments, zoos, museums, fairs and exhibitions, to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19. It does not replace guidance from the Province. This document is for information purposes only, and shall not be construed as legal advice.

Provincial Roadmap to Reopen at a glance

On July 16, Ontario moved into Step 3 of the [Roadmap to Reopen](#). Residents, organizations, and businesses must abide by the public health measures for Step 3. See [O. Reg. 364/20, Schedules 1, 2 and 3](#), for regulations for Step 3. The Chief Medical Officer of Health and other health experts will continue to monitor the data to determine when it is safe to exit the Roadmap

Below are some of the activities that may apply to indoor entertainment facilities for Step 3. For specific questions about COVID-19 provincial regulations, please contact the **Stop the Spread Business Information Line** at 1-888-444-3659.

Step 3
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Concert venues, cinemas and theatres: indoor and outdoor open<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Indoor open with patron and/or spectator capacity and other restrictions○ Outdoor open with patron and/or spectator capacity and other restrictions○ Drive-in cinemas, concerts, and other performances permitted with vehicles spaced two metres apart• Casinos, bingo halls and gaming establishments: open with capacity at 50%<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ No loitering or congregating around tables where games are played• Outdoor horse racing tracks and motor speedways:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Indoor open with patron and/or spectator capacity and other restrictions○ Outdoor open with patron and/or spectator capacity and other restrictions• Indoor museums, art galleries, zoos, aquariums:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Indoor open with patron and/or spectator capacity and other restrictions○ Outdoor open with patron and/or spectator capacity and other restrictions• Indoor and outdoor fairs and rural exhibitions:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Open at reduced capacity with other restrictions

To support a safe reopening, operators must also abide by:

- Provincial [sector-specific guidelines](#) and [guidance documents](#).
- Relevant legislation, including [Consolidated By-law 47-20](#) that requires the wearing of non-medical masks in enclosed public places, unless exempt.
- Additional guidelines provided by coordinating bodies specific to the organization or business.

Ontario's enhanced COVID-19 vaccine certificate

Starting September 22, 2021, the provincial government will require certain businesses and settings to obtain proof of vaccination from customers/patrons. For more information refer to the [Proof of Vaccination Guidance for Businesses and Organizations](#).

Instructions for workplaces from Halton Region's Medical Officer of Health

Halton Region's Medical Officer of Health (MOH) issued [amended Instructions to businesses and organizations](#) to help keep staff and customers/patrons safe. The instructions take effect at 12:01 a.m. on **Friday, September 10, 2021**. They combine key existing requirements from the Province and Halton Region Public Health, with some new requirements. **Compliance with these instructions is mandatory.**

Workplace vaccination

Workplace vaccination policy

To reduce COVID-19 transmission in the workplace, Halton Region's MOH recommends all local employers have a [workplace COVID-19 vaccination policy](#). For workplaces with more than 100 workers physically present, Halton Region Public Health requires mandatory [COVID-19 safety plans](#) and vaccination policies in place by September 22, 2021.

Encourage everyone to get a COVID-19 vaccine

Getting vaccinated is one of the ways to stop the spread of COVID-19. Here are some ways you can support vaccination at your workplace:

- Develop a [workplace COVID-19 vaccination policy](#)
- Ensure employees are aware that everyone in Canada is eligible to receive a vaccine for free. Proof of identity is required but a health card is not required for vaccination.
- Share [COVID-19 vaccine resources](#), with staff, available in multiple languages

Additional COVID-19 public health measures

The following COVID-19 Public Health Measures are recommended by Halton Region Public Health and should be considered in all steps of Ontario's [Roadmap to Reopen](#).

Maximize physical distancing and reduce physical contact

- Encourage people to maintain physical distance by using [signage](#). This may require blocking off seating or using a barrier/Plexiglas between seats.
- Organize the facility to allow for a one-way flow of patrons from the entrance to exit by using ground markings and barriers. If possible, designate a separate entrance and exit.
- Assign seating or spaces where possible to ensure physical distancing.
- Encourage the use of contactless payments whenever possible.
- Reconfigure waiting areas by removing tables and chairs to allow more space to physically distance.
- If food, snacks and/or beverages are offered, provide single-use individually wrapped utensils, condiments and items such as straws and napkins from behind the counter.
- Remove unnecessary communal items such as candy, magazines and complimentary phone chargers.

Wear a mask and use personal protective equipment (PPE)

- [Consolidated By-law 47-20](#) requires individuals to wear a mask in indoor workplaces and public spaces, unless exempt.
- Workers are recommended to wear a mask when they cannot maintain physical distance of 2 metres (six feet) and cannot be separated by Plexiglass or a barrier.
- PPE (surgical/procedure mask and eye protection i.e. goggles or face shield) is required to be worn by workers when a distance of 2 metres (six feet) cannot be maintained from another person not wearing a mask indoors and cannot be separated by Plexiglass or a barrier.
- Masks can be removed when eating or drinking, but individuals must maintain physical distancing of two metres (six feet) between them.

- Masks are encouraged while engaging in physical activity if it can be done safely, but may be removed if necessary.
- Masks do not replace other important public health measures, such as screening, physical distancing, proper hand hygiene, coughing and sneezing into a tissue or sleeve, and staying home when feeling ill.

Keep hands and surfaces clean

- Post [signage](#) to encourage patrons to wash hands frequently for at least 15 seconds with soap and water or use an alcohol-based (60-90% alcohol) hand rub. Washing with soap and water is preferred if hands are visibly dirty.
- Ensure frequent [cleaning and disinfecting](#) of high-touch surfaces and common areas

Keep staff and volunteers safe

- Ensure [appropriate personal protective equipment](#) is available on-site for staff at all times and all staff are trained on [proper use](#).
- Ensure protocols are in place if staff or patrons experience [symptoms](#) of COVID-19, including:
 - immediately isolating the individual from others and asking them to wear a mask;
 - limiting contact with the person and maintaining a physical distance of two metres (six feet) as much as possible; and
 - cleaning and disinfecting all surfaces that may have come into contact with the symptomatic individual.
- Follow the steps outlined in [instructions for workplaces](#) if an employee tests positive for COVID-19.
- Maintain flexible policies to allow staff to stay home to care for a sick family member or self-isolate if required.

Additional resources

- Halton Region Public Health:
 - [Cleaning practices to prevent the spread of COVID-19](#)
 - [COVID-19 Public Health Guidelines: Public Washrooms](#)
 - [COVID-19 Public Health Guidelines: Restaurants, Bars, Food Trucks and other Food and Drink Establishments](#) (if food, snacks and/or beverages are offered at your facility)
 - [COVID-19 Public Health Guidelines: Events and Gatherings](#)
 - [Instructions for workplaces from Halton Region's Medical Officer of Health](#)
 - [Mental Health Resources and Supports](#)
- Government of Ontario:
 - [Guidance for professional meeting and event facilities](#)
 - [Ontario Regulation 364/20: Reopening Ontario \(A Flexible Response to COVID-19\) Act, 2020.](#)
- Public Services Health & Safety Association:
 - [Health and safety guidance for entertainment museum and gallery employers](#)
- Workplace Safety & Prevention Services:
 - [Psychological Safety Resources for Leaders During COVID-19](#)