



## **CONTINUED INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**

**DATE: April 19, 2021**

**TO: All persons who own and/or operate the following types of business, place, facility, or establishment located in Halton Region:**

- A. Shopping malls**
- B. Retail stores, including stores located in shopping malls**

Halton Region and Ontario have now experienced outbreaks and community transmission of Variants of Concern (**VOCs**) of the COVID-19 virus. VOCs are more easily transmitted and have higher rates of serious illness and death. Key risk factors associated with COVID-19 transmission include close contact, closed spaces, crowded places and forceful exhalation. **Rigorous adherence to physical distancing and related public health measures is essential to stop/slow the spread of VOCs**, protecting our hospital, public health and broader health system capacity from overwhelming demands.

**On February 12, 2021, I, Dr. Hamidah Meghani, Medical Officer of Health for Halton Region, issued instructions for malls and retail. These instructions took effect February 16, 2021 at 12:01 a.m. and remain in effect for all malls and retail permitted to be open during the third provincial emergency and shutdown measures declared on April 7, 2021 and strengthened again on April 16, 2021. They remain in effect until amended or rescinded by me.**

Ontario's strengthened shutdown measures continue to require persons responsible for a business or organization that is open to operate the business or organization in compliance with the instructions of public health officials, including instructions on physical distancing. My instructions require owners/operators to actively monitor and take all necessary steps to ensure ongoing compliance with all requirements established by the Province.

See Ontario's shutdown measures at: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/emergency-information>.

These instructions will be enforced by public health inspectors and other provincial offences officers. Failure to comply is an offence under the *Reopening Ontario (A Flexible Response to COVID-19) Act, 2020* and/or the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act*. You may be charged and penalties imposed including fines, imprisonment and/or closure of premises.

Please see our website for further information: [www.halton.ca](http://www.halton.ca).

**Thank you for your efforts over the past year and longer to comply with public health requirements. These aim to protect your staff, patrons and our community. I ask for your continued support and compliance.**

### **A. SHOPPING MALLS**

All persons who own and/or operate a shopping mall must:

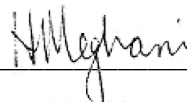
1. Comply with all requirements that apply to your business, place, facility, or establishment as set out under the ROA and the applicable regulations, as well as the requirements set out in these instructions. Where these instructions impose one or more additional requirements not set out in the ROA, the requirement(s) under these instructions must be followed.

2. Actively monitor compliance with the required capacity limit and ensure that physical distancing of two metres is maintained by patrons, store staff and mall staff in all common areas, stores, washrooms, hallways, entrances, etc., at all times and that all patrons, store staff and mall staff wear a mask or face covering in a manner that covers their mouth, nose and chin unless entitled to an exception from this requirement.
3. Ensure all stores within the shopping mall set a maximum capacity limit and monitor the capacity limit to ensure physical distancing of at least two meters is maintained by patrons, store staff and mall staff at all times and that all patrons, store staff and mall staff wear a mask or face covering in a manner that covers their mouth, nose and chin unless entitled to an exception from this requirement.
4. Actively manage all line-ups or patrons congregating and ensure all patrons waiting in line-ups inside or outside the shopping mall maintain physical distancing of at least two metres and that all patrons, store staff and mall staff wear a mask or face covering in a manner that covers their mouth, nose and chin unless entitled to an exception from this requirement.
5. Follow all further instructions from Halton Region Public Health pertaining to COVID-19 that apply to your shopping mall.

#### **B. RETAIL STORES, INCLUDING STORES LOCATED IN SHOPPING MALLS**

All persons who own and/or operate a retail store, including a store located in a shopping mall must:

1. Comply with all requirements that apply to your business, place, facility, or establishment as set out under the ROA and the applicable regulations, as well as the requirements set out in these instructions. Where these instructions impose one or more additional requirements not set out in the ROA, the requirement(s) under these instructions must be followed.
2. Actively monitor compliance with the required capacity limit and ensure that physical distancing of at least two metres is maintained by patrons and store staff within the retail store and in all common areas, washrooms, hallways, entrances, etc., at all times and that all patrons, store staff and mall staff wear a mask or face covering in a manner that covers their mouth, nose and chin unless entitled to an exception from this requirement.
3. Actively manage all line-ups or patrons congregating and ensure all patrons waiting in line-ups inside or outside the retail store maintain physical distancing of at least two metres and that all patrons, store staff and mall staff wear a mask or face covering in a manner that covers their mouth, nose and chin unless entitled to an exception from this requirement.
4. Follow all further instructions from Halton Region Public Health pertaining to COVID-19 that apply to your retail store.



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These instructions shall be posted at: [halton.ca/COVID19](https://www.halton.ca/COVID19)