

COVID-19 Response Framework: Keeping Ontario Safe and Open



Control - Red Zone (Stringent Measures) Q&A



General Public Health Measures – Gatherings, Workplace Requirements and Face Coverings

Is travel within Ontario permitted?

Individuals and families in higher transmission areas should avoid travel to lower transmission areas (e.g. from Red to Orange) except for essential reasons.

When should individuals leave their homes in the Red zone?

Trips outside of the home should only be for essential reasons (work, school, groceries/pharmacy, health care, assisting vulnerable individuals, or exercise and physical activity).

What are the gathering limits for organized public events and social gatherings?

The gathering limits for any social gathering, whether it's a public or private gathering, is limited to a maximum of 5 people indoors and 25 people outdoors. Limit close contact to your household (the people you live with). Gathering limits for religious services, wedding ceremonies and funeral services is 30% capacity indoors and 100 people outdoors.

When do employees need to wear a non-medical face mask or face covering?

Employees performing work for the business or the organization in an indoor area that is accessible to the public, must wear a mask or face covering in a manner that covers the nose, mouth and chin. Employees must also wear a mask when working behind a plexiglass barrier and in areas that are not accessible to the public when 2 metres physical distancing cannot be maintained.

Do employees need to wear personal protective equipment (PPE)?

Yes, when staff are working within 2 metres of someone not wearing a mask or face covering and are not separated by a plexiglass barrier, they must wear PPE that protects a person's eyes, nose and mouth. PPE may include eye protection/face shield and a medical/procedure mask etc.

When do masks/face coverings need to be worn by individuals?

Individuals are required to wear a mask or face covering in the indoor areas of businesses or organizations that are open. Wearing a mask or face covering is now recommended outdoors when 2 metres physical distancing cannot be maintained.



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Do businesses and organizations have to conduct screening of employees and/or visitors?

Every person who works at the business or organization and essential visitors (e.g. individuals providing a service in the establishment who are not employees in the workplace such as delivery and maintenance people) must be actively screened before they enter the premises. The province has created a screening [tool](#) that can be used to screen workers.

All businesses and organizations must post signs at all entrances to the premises in a conspicuous location visible to the public, that inform individuals on how to screen themselves for COVID-19 prior to entering the premises. The Province has developed [COVID-19 signage questions](#) that can be used.

For businesses and/or organizations that are required to actively screen patrons and/or customers the Province has developed a [tool](#) that can be used.

What businesses and organizations are required to actively screen patrons before entry into the facility?

The following businesses and organizations are required to actively screen patrons before entry:

- Indoor malls
- Restaurants, bars and other food and drink establishments (not required for take-out, drive through or delivery)
- Sport and recreational fitness facilities
- Meeting and event spaces
- Personal care services
- Casinos, bingo halls and gaming establishments

What is active screening as it pertains to COVID-19?

Active screening is a method to ensure people are not at risk or exhibiting symptoms or COVID-19 in determining if a person may enter the facility.

Active screening can be done by telephone, app, questionnaire, interview etc.

What is a safety plan?

A safety plan is designed to reduce risk of COVID-19 transmission within the facility. A safety plan should include:

- Screening people who enter the facility.
- Supporting self-isolation for workers with symptoms and workers who are close contacts of COVID-19 cases.
- Ensuring people maintain a physical distance of 2 metres or more.
- Having workers, clients and visitors wear masks.
- Disinfecting surfaces and objects.
- Supporting hand hygiene, particularly handwashing.



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- Reminding workers about good cough and sneeze etiquette and to avoid touching their face.
- Working with the local public health unit if any workers have COVID-19 or are exposed to someone with COVID-19.

What are the additional requirements for the safety plan?

- A safety plan must be in writing and be made available to any person for review based on a request.
- A copy of the safety plan must be posted in a conspicuous place where it can be viewed by staff and patrons.

Is there a safety plan template?

Yes, a template is available on the [Provincial website](#).

The Health Department has created a COVID-19 [Workplace Safety Plan resource](#).

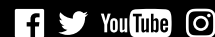


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CONTROL

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Measures for Restaurants, Bars and Food or Drink Establishments

What time can restaurants, bars and food or drink establishments be open to the public?

Establishments can operate from 5 a.m. to 10 p.m. Liquor sales are permitted from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. and liquor consumption is not permitted past 10 p.m.

Establishments can remain open after 10 p.m. for the following reasons:

1. To allow patrons to temporarily enter the establishment to place, pick up or pay for a takeout order.
2. Provide drive-through or delivery service.
3. Provide dine-in service for persons who are performing work for the business.
4. To provide access to washrooms.

What is the indoor seated capacity of a food and drink establishment?

The number of patrons permitted to be seated indoors is limited to the number that can maintain a physical distance of at least 2 metres from every other table and in any event cannot exceed 10 patrons.

How many people are permitted to be seated together at a table?

No more than 4 people may be seated together in an establishment.

What are the requirements for patios?

Outdoor dining is permitted. Outdoor patios/enclosures (e.g. tent canopies, etc.) must have at least 2 full sides open to the outdoor area and must not be substantially blocked by any walls or impermeable physical barriers.

Capacity is based on all tables distanced 2 metres apart.

To increase or add outdoor dining areas, contact the local municipality.

Can establishments have live entertainment?

Live entertainment such as dancing, singing and live music is not permitted.

Are food courts permitted to have indoor dining?

No, food courts are not permitted to be open for indoor dining. Food courts may be open for take-out/delivery only.



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Measures for Sports and Recreational Fitness

What are the capacity and physical distancing limits for gyms?

The maximum capacity limit for fitness classes are 10 members of the public indoors and 25 members of the public outdoors, all fitness classes/rooms combined. The maximum capacity limit for weight and exercise equipment areas is 10 members of the public.

Every person in an area containing weights and exercise machines, fitness classes and every person engaged in physical activity must be at least 3 metres apart.

Limit of 20 members of the public, permitted to be indoors at any one time in a gym that provide indoor classes, organized programs or organized activities and also has one or more areas containing weights or exercise machines.

Is there a limit to how long I can remain at a gym or sporting complex?

The duration of stay is limited to 90 minutes, except if engaging in sport.

What are the capacity limits for recreational programs (e.g. dance class) not in a community centre?

The capacity limit is a total of 10 members of the public in all classes, organized programs or organized activities at any one time ensuring physical distancing of 2 metres. Activities that are likely to result in individuals coming within 2 metres of each other, must not be practiced. Physical contact is not permitted.

What are the capacity limits for community centres and multi-purpose facilities? (this does not include gyms)

All sports and recreational fitness programs within these facilities is limited to a maximum of 10 members of the public indoors, for each room that is physically separated from other rooms in the facility.

- Every person engaged in a fitness or exercise class, or in an area containing weights or exercise machines, must maintain a physical distance of at least 3 metres.
- Every person participating in any other kind of class, organized program or organized activity must maintain a physical distance of at least 2 metres.



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What are the capacity limits for sports and recreational facilities?

Facility Type	Capacity Limit
Fitness Studio	10 members of the public for all areas combined (physically distanced 3 metres)
Weight and Exercise Machine Areas	10 members of the public for all areas combined (physically distanced by 3 metres)
Public Pool	<p>Aqua Fit Maximum 10 members of the public physically distanced by 3 metres</p> <p>Swimming Lessons Maximum 10 members of the public physically distanced by 2 metres</p> <p>Lane swim, free swim and swim practice Number of members of the public physically distanced by 2 m which cannot exceed 25% of the bather load</p>
Ice Pad	10 players per ice pad (staff, coaches, trainers and parents/guardians are not included in this total)
Spectators	Spectators not permitted. One parent or guardian permitted for each child under 18-years old (physically distanced by 2 metres)
Tennis Courts	10 players per facility physically distanced by 2 metres (staff, coaches, trainers and parents/guardians are not included in this total)
Soccer Domes/Indoor Fields	10 players per facility physically distanced by 2 metres (staff, coaches, trainers and parents/guardians are not included in this total)
Outdoor Ice Rinks	Number of people that can physically distance by 2 metres.



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What outdoor recreational amenities are permitted to be open?

The following amenities are permitted to be open with restrictions:

- Parks and recreational areas.
- Baseball diamonds.
- Batting cages.
- Soccer, football and sports fields.
- Tennis, platform tennis, table tennis and -pickleball courts.
- Basketball courts.
- BMX parks.
- Skate parks.
- Golf courses and driving ranges.
- Frisbee golf locations.
- Cycling tracks and bike trails.
- Horse riding facilities.
- Shooting ranges, including those operated by rod and gun clubs.
- Ice rinks.
- Downhill ski hills.
- Tobogganing hills.
- Snowmobile, cross country ski, dog sledding, ice skating and snowshoe trails.
- Playgrounds.
- Portions of parks or recreational areas containing outdoor fitness equipment.

Are ski hills permitted to be open?

Yes, ski hills are permitted to operate according to the following requirements:

- Any person who enters or uses the facility must maintain a physical distance of at least two metres from any other person who is using the amenity. Exceptions apply with members of the same household, when using a surface lift or when using a chair lift, if at least one empty seat is left between any persons who are not members of the same household
- Masks or face covering must be worn in a manner that covers a persons mouth, nose and chin when waiting in line or when using a ski lift unless riding the lift with members of the same household or if the individual has an exemption.
- Locker rooms, change rooms, showers and clubhouses must be closed, except to the extent they provide access to equipment storage, a washroom or a portion of the amenity that is used to provide first aid.



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Are individual or team sports permitted?

No, team sports must not be practiced or played except for training or practices (no games/ scrimmages). The capacity for sports facilities is 10 members of the public participating in classes, organized programs or organized activities; this does not include employees, coaches, officials, trainers, or accompanying parents/guardians.

Activities that are likely to result in individuals coming within 2 metres of each other, must not be practiced or played.

Sports are only permitted if they do not allow for physical contact between players or the rules have been modified to avoid physical contact between players.

Are spectators permitted in the facility?

No, spectators are not permitted to be in the facility. Each participant under 18-years old is permitted to be accompanied by one parent or guardian.

Do I need to provide my contact information?

Yes, anyone entering the facility must provide their name and contact information. This information will be kept for one month.

Do I need to make an appointment to go to workout at my gym or practice a sport?

Yes, all patrons or teams are required to make appointments. No walk-ins permitted.

Can locker rooms, change rooms and showers remain open?

Locker rooms, change rooms and showers are not permitted to open unless associated with a pool, splash pad, spray pad or wading pool.

What is the volume of music that can be played at a facility?

The volume of music must be limited to conversation level to avoid shouting by both instructors and members of the public. To prevent shouting by instructors, a microphone must be used.



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CONTROL

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Measures for Retail Establishments

What are the requirements for retail establishments?

- Must adhere to applicable capacity limits.
- Music cannot be played at a decibel level that exceeds the level at which normal conversation is possible.
- The person responsible for the business must ensure that a safety plan is prepared, posted and made available.

What are the capacity limits for essential retail establishments?

The total number of members of the public in the place of business at any one time cannot exceed 75% capacity. This includes supermarkets, convenience stores, indoor farmer's markets, other stores that primarily sell food and pharmacies.

Note: The maximum number of members of the public permitted in a business or facility that is operating at 75% capacity is determined by taking the total square metres of floor area accessible to the public in the business or facility, not including shelving and store fixtures, dividing that number by 5.3 and rounding the result down to the nearest whole number.

What are the capacity limits for all other retail establishments, including big box stores?

The total number of members of the public in the place of business at any one time cannot exceed 50% capacity.

Note: The maximum number of members of the public permitted in a business or facility that is operating at 50% capacity is determined by taking the total square metres of floor area accessible to the public in the business or facility, not including shelving and store fixtures, dividing that number by 8 and rounding the result down to the nearest whole number.

Are there further requirements for a Retail Establishment in Durham Region?

Yes, a Section 22 Class Order has been issued to all retail establishments that details further requirements. See the [Section 22 Class order](#) and [frequently asked questions](#) for more information.



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Measures for Meeting and Event Spaces

What are the capacity and physical distancing limits for meeting and event spaces?

The maximum capacity is 10 members of the public indoors or 25 members of the public outdoors per facility, ensuring physical distancing of 2 metres. Gathering limits for religious services, wedding ceremonies and funeral services is 30% capacity indoors and 100 people outdoors.



Measures for Personal Care

Are personal care service providers allowed to offer services where a face covering must be removed (e.g. facials, waxing, beard trimming, etc.)?

No, all services which require a face covering to be removed are not permitted.



Measures for Performing Arts and Cinemas

Are cinemas and performing arts venues permitted to open?

No, these facilities are closed to members of the public. Drive-in cinemas and rehearsal or performing a recorded or broadcasted events are permitted to operate, subject to restrictions in [O. Reg 263/20](#).



Racing Venues

Are racing venues such as, horse and car racing, permitted to open?

No, these facilities are not permitted to be open to the public (e.g. no spectators).



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