

# COVID-19 Public Health Guidance: Outdoor Recreational Spaces

Last updated September 17, 2021

This document outlines guidance for operators of outdoor recreational spaces including public parks, hiking paths and trails, dog parks, and parks and recreation 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 outdoor recreational spaces.** For specific questions about COVID-19 provincial regulations, please contact the **Stop the Spread Business Information Line** at 1-888-444-3659.

### Step 3

- Outdoor recreational spaces: open
- Outdoor gatherings: up to 100 people with limited exceptions
- Outdoor sport leagues: open
  - No restrictions on contact for sports or games
  - Capacity limit for spectators
- Outdoor fitness classes and personal training: open with capacity limited to permit two metres (six feet) physical distancing
- Outdoor pools, splash pads, spray pads, whirlpools, wading pools and water slides open with capacity limited to permit two metres (six feet) physical distancing
- Meeting and events: open with capacity limits
- Performing arts: outdoor open, including live music, with capacity limits
- Cinemas: outdoor open with capacity limits
  - Vehicles must be spaces two metres (six feet) apart
- Ontario parks and campgrounds: open for day use and overnight camping
- Outdoors religious services, rites and ceremonies including weddings and funerals: outdoors open with capacity to permit two metres (six feet) physical distancing

## 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](#), tape or floor markings.
- Limit the number of people inside the premises at one time to ensure physical distancing can be maintained.

### 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

- Provide handwashing stations and/or alcohol-based (60-90% alcohol) hand rub stations, wherever possible.

- 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.
- Ensure that any items or equipment that are shared are cleaned and disinfected between users (for example, skate aids).
- Encourage patrons to bring their own equipment, if possible (for example, skates).

## Keep staff and volunteers safe

- Ensure [appropriate personal protective equipment](#) is available on-site for staff and volunteers at all times and that all staff and volunteers 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 employees and volunteers to stay home to care for a sick family member or self-isolate if required.
- Stagger shifts or offer flexible work hours and schedules to reduce the number of staff at your facility at any one time.
- Where shifts are established, prevent mixing of staff between shifts.
- Discourage employees and volunteers from congregating, and limit the use of lunch and meeting rooms.

## Additional resources

- Halton Region Public Health:
  - [COVID-19 Public Health Guidelines: Sports and Recreational Fitness](#)
  - [COVID-19 Public Health Guidelines: Restaurants, Bars, and other Food and Drink Establishments](#).
  - Poster: [Protect Yourself and Others](#)
  - [Mental Health Resources and Supports](#)
- Government of Ontario:
  - [Guidance for facilities for sports and recreational fitness activities during COVID-19](#)
  - [Resources to prevent COVID-19 in the workplace](#)
  - On site food premises must comply with [Ontario Regulation 493/17: Food Premises](#).
- Workplace Safety & Prevention Services:
  - [Psychological Safety Resources for Leaders During COVID-19](#)
- Public Health Agency of Canada:
  - [Risk tool for outdoor recreation spaces and activities operating during the COVID-19 pandemic](#)