

MEMBER BULLETIN

November 10, 2021

UPDATE – Provincial Reopening Plan

Updating on our October 25th bulletin (below) the province, in consultation with the Chief Medical Officer of Health, is pausing the lifting of capacity limits in remaining higher-risk settings as outlined in [A Plan to Safely Reopen Ontario and Manage COVID-19 for the Long-Term](#).

While Ontario's hospital and intensive care capacity remains stable and the province continues to report one of the lowest rates of active cases in the country, certain public health trends, including the effective reproduction number and percent positivity have increased slightly over the past week. An increase in cases was always expected as more people move indoors due to the colder weather and as the province eased measures.

Originally expected to be lifted on November 15th, capacity limits and physical distancing requirements for higher-risk settings where proof of vaccination is required will remain in place out of an abundance of caution to ensure the province has the required time to better understand any potential impact on hospitalizations and ICU admissions. These higher-risk settings include food and/or drink establishments with dance facilities such as night clubs and wedding receptions in meeting/event spaces where there is dancing.

The government and the Chief Medical Officer of Health will continue to monitor the data for the next 28 days to determine when it is safe to lift capacity limits in these settings.

If you have any questions about this bulletin, please contact Patrick McManus (patrick.mcmanus@oswca.org or 905-629-7766 ext. 229).

October 25, 2021

A Plan to Safely Reopen Ontario and Manage COVID-19 for the Long-Term

The Ontario government, in consultation with the Chief Medical Officer of Health, has released [*A Plan to Safely Reopen Ontario and Manage COVID-19 for the Long-Term*](#), which outlines the province's gradual approach to lifting the remaining public health and workplace safety measures by March 2022. The plan will be guided by the ongoing assessment of key public health and health care indicators and supported by local or regional tailored responses to COVID-19.

Ontario will slowly and incrementally lift all remaining public health and workplace safety measures, including the provincial requirement for proof of vaccination and wearing face coverings in indoor public settings, over the next six months. This phased approach will be guided by the ongoing assessment and monitoring of key public health and health system indicators, such as the identification of any new COVID-19 variants, increases in hospitalizations and ICU occupancy and rapid increases in transmission to ensure that public health and workplace safety measures are lifted safely.

In the absence of concerning trends, public health and workplace safety measures will be lifted on the following dates:

October 25, 2021

- Ontario will lift capacity limits in the vast majority of settings where proof of vaccination are required, such as restaurants, bars and other food or drink establishments, indoor areas of sports and recreational facilities such as gyms and where personal physical fitness trainers provide instruction; casinos, bingo halls and other gaming establishments; and indoor meeting and event spaces.
- At this time, the government will also allow other settings to lift capacity limits and physical distancing requirements if they choose to require proof of vaccination.
- This will not apply to settings where people receive medical care, food from grocery stores and medical supplies.

November 15, 2021

- The government intends to lift capacity limits in the remaining higher-risk settings where proof of vaccination is required, including food or drink establishments with dance facilities.

January 17, 2022



- In the absence of concerning trends in public health and health care following the winter holiday months and after students returned to in-class learning, the province intends to begin gradually lifting capacity limits in settings where proof of vaccination is not required.
- Proof of vaccination requirements may also begin to be gradually lifted at this time.

February 7, 2022

- The government intends to lift proof of vaccination requirements in high-risk settings, including night clubs, strip clubs, and bathhouses and sex clubs.

March 28, 2022

- At this time, it is intended that remaining public health and workplace safety measures will be lifted, including wearing face coverings in indoor public settings.

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