

Business Information Related to Ontario's Stage 3 Pandemic Reopening Plan

July 14, 2020

The Ontario government announced nearly all businesses and public spaces will reopen in Stage 3 of the province's reopening framework, on **Friday July 17th**, with public health and workplace safety measures and restrictions in place.

As part of the Stage 3 reopening, Ontario will be increasing gathering limits for those regions entering the next stage to the following:

- Indoor gathering limits will increase to a maximum of 50 people;
- Outdoor gathering limits will increase to a maximum of 100 people;
- Gathering limits are subject to physical distancing requirements.

Public gathering limits apply to indoor and outdoor events, such as community events or gatherings, concerts, live shows, festivals, conferences, sports and recreational fitness activities, fundraisers, fairs, festivals or open houses. A two-metre distance must still be maintained at such events.

The Chief Medical Officer of Health, public health experts and other officials have advised the following, high-risk places and activities are not yet safe to open, even if a region has entered Stage 3, due to the likelihood of large crowds congregating, difficulties with physical distancing, or challenges maintaining the proper cleaning and sanitation required to prevent the spread of COVID-19:

- Amusement parks and water parks;
- Buffet-style food services;
- Dancing at restaurants and bars, other than by performers hired by the establishment following specific requirements;
- Overnight stays at camps for children;
- Private karaoke rooms;
- Prolonged or deliberate contact while playing sports;
- Saunas, steam rooms, bath houses and oxygen bars;
- Table games at casinos and gaming establishments.

Businesses and municipalities will be permitted to enter Stage 3 based on their region and, as in the previous stages, may choose to take more time before reopening. For a list of regions that will remain in Stage 2, visit [Ontario.ca/reopen](https://www.ontario.ca/reopen). For more information on the restrictions that will remain in place during Stage 3, as well as the public health guidance necessary to keep the people of Ontario safe, visit [Ontario.ca/reopen](https://www.ontario.ca/reopen).

Also, Manitoulin businesses should check the web site of Public Health Sudbury & Districts: <https://www.phsd.ca/>

At the beginning of each week, the province will continue to reassess local trends in public health indicators, including rates of transmission, hospital capacity, progress on testing and contact tracing, to determine if additional public health unit regions can progress to Stage 3. The Chief Medical Officer of Health and other public health experts will continue to closely monitor the evolving situation to advise when public health restrictions can be further loosened or if they need to be tightened or reapplied.

As the province safely and gradually enters Stage 3, child care centres and home child care providers across Ontario will be able to continue to operate with strict safety and operational requirements in place. Beginning on July 27, 2020, child care centres will be permitted to operate with cohorts of 15 children, which is an increase from the current cohort cap of 10. This change will allow parents to return to work, and bring the child care sector to approximately 90 per cent of its operating capacity before the COVID-19 outbreak.

The government, in partnership with health and safety associations, has released over [170 guidance resources at Ontario.ca/COVIDsafety](#) to help employers in multiple sectors including fitness, restaurant and food services, and the performing arts keep spaces safe for workers and customers. Guidance will be available for all spaces permitted to open in Stage 3. As they prepare to reopen, employers are strongly advised to review and implement appropriate measures to help protect their communities.

Based on community needs, some municipalities and local medical officers of health have implemented more restrictions or requirements, such as mandatory face coverings in commercial establishments and all indoor public places. Check your [local public health unit's](#) or local municipality's website.

Further Information

- The government invites businesses not able to open or resume full activities due to Stage 3 restrictions to visit [Ontario.ca/reopen](#) to submit a reopening proposal.
- For questions on restrictions that will remain in place during Stage 3, review the Stage 3 Emergency Order on the [emergency information portal](#) or call the Stop the Spread Business Information Line at 1-888-444-3659.
- The Ontario government has launched a website to provide businesses with information on personal protective equipment (PPE) suppliers. The [Workplace PPE Supplier Directory](#) has an up-to-date list of Ontario companies and business associations that are ready to supply PPE.
- The government has also launched the \$50 million Ontario Together Fund to support the development of proposals submitted by businesses and individuals through the [Ontario Together web portal](#) to help businesses retool their operations.
- Free online workplace health and safety training is available through Employment Ontario for up to 100,000 job seekers, with topics such as infection control, conducting health and safety incident investigations, ladder safety, slips, trips and falls prevention. Contact an Employment Ontario [service provider](#) in your area to enroll.
- Find sector-specific guidelines and return-to-sport resources to help facilities, trainers and athletes safely return to play and recreation activities in Ontario at [Ontario.ca/returntoplay](#).

Additional Resources

- [Learn more about Stage 3 of reopening Ontario](#)
- [Submit your safe reopening proposal](#)
- [Get the facts from Public Health Ontario on how to protect yourself and others](#)
- [Find workplace safety guidance documents to prepare for reopening](#)
- [Learn more about A Framework for Reopening our Province](#)
- [Provide your input on the economic impacts of COVID-19](#)
- [See how your organization can help fight COVID-19](#)
- [Visit Ontario's website to learn more about how the province continues to protect the people of Ontario from](#)