

Released July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021

## COVID-19 Screening Tool Updated

Please be advised that the Chief Medical Officer of Health for Ontario recently updated the **COVID-19 Screening Tool for Businesses and Organizations for screening employees and workers**. Follow this link to access the updated version of the screening tool to be used: <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/screening/worker/>. If you are using your own internal screening questionnaire or a third-party app, steps must be taken to ensure that they reflect the contents of the province's updated screening tool.

It is important to note that it remains a legal requirement for organizations to actively screen their employees and workers before they enter the workplace, regardless of an employee's vaccination status. All staff should be reminded of their obligation to continue completing the COVID-19 screening questionnaire above every day before work.

The following are the substantive changes to the screening tool:

A worker can answer “no”, if:

- the worker is experiencing a listed symptom (headache, muscle aches/joint pain, fatigue), so long as the worker was vaccinated within the previous 48 hours and began experiencing the symptom(s) only after vaccination.
- the worker lives with someone experiencing COVID-19 symptoms or said person is waiting for test results after experiencing symptoms, so long as the worker is fully vaccinated and has not been advised to self-isolate by public health.
- the worker lives with someone experiencing mild headache, fatigue, muscle aches, and/or joint pain, so long as symptoms for that person began after their vaccination (regardless of the vaccination status of the worker).
- There is a new question: **“In the last 10 days, have you tested positive on a rapid antigen test or a home-based self-testing kit?”**
- The question related to travel outside of Canada now reads, **“In the last 14 days, have you travelled outside of Canada AND been advised to quarantine per the federal quarantine requirements?”**. This change reflects the new exemption to the 14-day quarantine requirement that applies to most fully vaccinated Canadian travelers.

**Please do not hesitate to reach out to a member of the HRPAR team should you need any assistance with the above or any other matter.**



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[Canada Recovery Benefit](#)

[Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit](#)

[Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy](#)

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[Canada Recovery Hiring Program](#)

## Canada Recovery Hiring Program Application Process Now Open

As of July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021, eligible businesses may apply for the **Canada Recovery Hiring Program (CRHP)**.

This program subsidizes eligible business up to 50% of their new staffing costs, such as hiring new employees, re-hiring people who were laid off or increasing hours for existing staff. The program is similar to the **Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS)**. You can compare the two programs online [here](#).

As both the CRHP and the CEWS programs are currently available, you will be able to apply for whichever program provides a higher subsidy amount. The CRA has developed a calculator to help you decide which one you should apply for, which you can find online [here](#).

**Contact a member of our team if you have any questions about the Canada Recovery Hiring Program or the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy.**

## Self-Isolation Measures for Fully Vaccinated Individuals Updated

**In response to vaccination rates continuing to rise in Ontario, the Ministry of Health has updated its guidance on the self-isolation requirements for those who are fully vaccinated.**

Although a number of surrounding Public Health Units have implemented the recommendations below as official policy, HRPAR have been advised by Toronto Public Health that it has yet to move ahead with these changes. Accordingly, the HRPAR team will be closely monitoring the situation in Toronto Region and will provide an update when Toronto Public Health amends its self-isolation rules for those who are fully vaccinated.

**For more information on the updated self-isolation measures, click [here](#).**

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