

Ontario Moving into Step Three of Reopening Plan on July 16, 2021

In response to key public health and health care indicators continuing to improve and the provincewide vaccination rate surpassing the targets outlined in the province's [Roadmap to Reopen](#), the Ontario Government is moving the province into Step Three of the Roadmap to Reopen at 12:01 a.m. on Friday, July 16, 2021.

Step Three focuses on the resumption of additional indoor services with an increase in capacity limits. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Outdoor social gatherings and organized public events with up to 100 people with limited exceptions;
- Indoor social gatherings and organized public events with up to 25 people;
- Indoor religious services, rites or ceremonies, including wedding services and funeral services permitted with physical distancing;
- Indoor dining permitted with no limits on the number of patrons per table with physical distancing and other restrictions still in effect;
- Indoor sports and recreational fitness facilities to open subject to a maximum 50 per cent capacity of the indoor space. Capacity for indoor spectators is 50 per cent of the usual seating capacity or 1,000 people, whichever is less. Capacity for outdoor spectators is 75 per cent of the usual seating capacity or 15,000 people, whichever is less;
- Indoor meeting and event spaces permitted to operate with physical distancing and other restrictions still in effect and capacity limited to not exceed 50 per cent capacity or 1,000 people, (whichever is less);
- Essential and non-essential retail with capacity limited to the number of people that can maintain a physical distance of two metres;
- Personal care services, including services requiring the removal of a face covering, with capacity limited to the number of people that can maintain a physical distance of two metres;
- Museums, galleries, historic sites, aquariums, zoos, landmarks, botanical gardens, science centres, casinos/bingo halls, amusement parks, fairs and rural exhibitions, festivals, with capacity limited to not exceed 50 per cent capacity indoors and 75 per cent capacity outdoors;
- Concert venues, cinemas, and theatres permitted to operate at:
 - up to 50 per cent capacity indoors or a maximum limit of 1,000 people for seated events (whichever is less)
 - up to 75 per cent capacity outdoors or a maximum limit of 5,000 people for unseated events (whichever is less); and up to 75 per cent capacity outdoors or a maximum of 15,000 people for events with fixed seating (whichever is less).
- Real estate open houses with capacity limited to the number of people that can maintain a physical distance of two metres; and
- Indoor food or drink establishments where dance facilities are provided, including nightclubs and restobars, permitted up to 25 per cent capacity or up to a maximum limit of 250 people (whichever is less).

Please note that the requirements surrounding the use of face masks; physical distancing; daily active screening of workers before they enter the workplace and self-isolation are not changed by Step Three and workplaces must continue to observe these measures.

The Ontario Government has also announced that there will be a "Step Four" after it is deemed safe to transition out of Step Three. Details of what the measures in Step Four may look like remain unclear at this time. However, The Office of the Premier, in its [news release](#) dated July 9, 2021, has stated the following:

"The province will remain in Step Three of the Roadmap for at least 21 days and until 80 per cent of the eligible population aged 12 and over has received one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine and 75 per cent have received their second, with no public health unit having less than 70 per cent of their eligible population aged 12 and over fully vaccinated. Other key public health and health care indicators must also continue to remain stable. Upon meeting these thresholds, the vast majority of public health and workplace safety measures, including capacity limits for indoor and outdoor settings and limits for social gatherings, will be lifted. Only a small number of measures will remain in place, including the requirement for passive screening, such as posting a sign, and businesses requiring a safety plan."

The HRPAR team is closely monitoring the COVID-19 situation as it develops and will continue to provide updates when key safety measures and policies are changed by the Government/Public Health Departments. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact a member of the HRPAR team if you have a question or an issue you need assistance with.



COVID-19 Self-Assessment	Canada Recovery Caregiving Benefit
COVID-19 Posters and Resources	Deemed Infectious Disease Emergency Leave Extended
Canada Recovery Benefit	COVID-19 Screening Tool for Workplaces
Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit	Ontario Small Business Support Grant
Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy	Canada Recovery Hiring Program

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