

Guidelines for operating Public Washrooms during COVID-19

Infection prevention and control measures:

The following mitigation guidelines will help reduce the risk of respiratory infections, including COVID-19.

Guidelines: Before Arrival

Individuals must self-screen themselves to limit the introduction of infection:

- Prior to entering a Public Washroom every individual must do the [self-assessment for COVID-19](#) on the Ontario Ministry of Health website and if they do not pass the assessment they should not use the Public Washroom until they pass the assessment and do not have signs and symptoms of COVID-19. Individuals can visit the [City's website](#) to determine if further care is required and learn about assessment centres.
- All individuals should be aware of signs and symptoms of COVID-19, including:
 - Fever
 - Cough
 - Difficulty breathing
 - Muscle aches
 - Tiredness
 - Sore throat
 - Headache
 - Runny nose
 - New loss of taste or smell
- Your risk of severe disease may be higher if you have a weakened immune system. This may be the case for:
 - Seniors
 - People with chronic disease such as diabetes, cancer, heart, renal or chronic lung disease
- The World Health Organization advises that symptoms may appear in as few as 2 days or as long as 10 to 14 days after contracting COVID-19.
- Hand sanitizer will not be available at Public Washrooms throughout the City.

Entrance Restrictions:

- Anyone who is exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 or has had close contact with a confirmed case cannot utilize Public Washrooms.
- Under advisement of Medical Officer of Health and Toronto Public Health, the City strongly encourages all Clients 70+, and/or with weak immune systems to remain home.
- Where possible staggered entrance into the Public Washroom should be adhered to in an effort to maintain physical distancing guidelines.

Guidelines: While Utilizing Public Washrooms

Reduce the risk of transmission during activities:

- Stay at home when you are ill.
 - The following screening questionnaire is available on the Toronto COVID-19 site under Workplaces: <https://www.toronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/95f0-Survey-Screening-poster-TPH.pdf>
- If more than 1 person at a time is entering a washroom these individuals should be persons living in the same household or individuals considered to be low risk.
- Practice [physical distancing](#) and maintain a 2 metre distance from others when within the Public Washroom.
- Respect any Provincial Emergency Orders that prohibit social gatherings of a certain size, including when within or outside a Public Washroom.

Practice proper hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette:

- Where possible utilize electronic push buttons or sensors to open doors, turn on sinks, flush toilets.
- Upon entering a Public Washroom immediately wash your hands with soap and water for at least 15 seconds.
- Try to minimize contact with frequently touched hard surfaces as much as possible.
- Prior to exiting the Public Washroom please ensure that you wash your hands with soap and water for at least 15 seconds.
- If soap and water are not available, bring your own alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Cover your cough or sneeze into a tissue. Immediately throw the tissue in the garbage and wash your hands.
- If you don't have a tissue, sneeze or cough into your sleeve or arm.
- Avoid touching your face, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.

Cloth Masks & Face Coverings

- It is recommended that individuals entering Public Washrooms wear cloth masks or face covers.

Ensure that people who become ill with signs and symptoms of COVID-19 while using Public Washrooms should go home to self-isolate:

- People who become ill while at Public Washroom should go home immediately, in a private vehicle if possible, and self-isolate. They should review the City of Toronto [website](#) for more information about COVID-19.
- If a participant at a Public Washroom tests positive for COVID-19, their local Public Health Unit (Toronto Public Health for Toronto residents) will follow-up with close contacts who may include other users of the same Public Washroom. Other individuals who came in close contact with the infected individual may be required to self-isolate.

Guidelines: Public Washrooms and Adjacent Amenities

Facility Information:

- Clubhouses and fieldhouses will not be open.

- Nearby facilities (i.e. community centres) may be closed due to Toronto Public Health Guidelines.
- Public Washrooms with attached drinking fountains and water bottle filling stations will be turned on. Other standalone drinking fountains and water bottle filling stations will not be turned on.
- Public Washrooms may have reduced hours of operation as determined in consultation with Toronto Public Health.
- To meet physical distancing guidelines, certain sinks and urinals (located side by side) may be closed off.

Public Washroom Information:

- Public Washrooms will receive a deep cleaning prior to opening for the season.
- Public Washrooms (including attached drinking fountains and water bottle filling stations) will be cleaned a minimum of 2 times per day with 1 deep cleaning per week.
- Areas that will not be routinely cleaned and disinfected, include but are not limited to:
 - Lighting
 - Electrical Outlets
 - Benches/Seating
 - Waste receptacles
 - Signage
 - Message Boards
 - other hard surfaces and apparatus
- Individuals using Public Washrooms are advised to practice good hand sanitization/hygiene while using any part of the Public Washroom.
- Individuals are asked not to touch other individuals.
- 2 metre physical distancing is strongly suggested.
- If possible use every other stall and sink.
- It is unknown if the virus can live on hard surfaces, therefore it is strongly suggested to minimize touching hard surfaces.
- Participants are asked to not loiter around the Public Washroom amenity to assist in physical distancing and allow others the opportunity to utilize amenity.

Cleaning and Disinfecting Requirements:

- The cleaning and disinfecting frequency of Public Washrooms has been determined through consultation with Toronto Public Health.
- Review [Public Health Ontario's Cleaning and Disinfection for Public Settings document](#).

Required Signage:

Post the Public Washroom Rules sign and the Standard Health Check sign, at all Public Washrooms in prominent locations.