

COVID-19 Guidance for Outdoor Ice Rinks

This guidance document describes the requirements that outdoor ice rinks must comply with under the [Reopening Ontario Act](#).

Owners and operators of outdoor ice rinks have a responsibility to assess the risks associated with their facility and operations, and their ability to mitigate these risks. They are responsible for implementing measures to reduce the risk of infection among all those who participate in their activities (e.g. staff, volunteers, participants). See Provincial Orders [O. Reg. 82/20](#) for more information.

Information for the public can be found in the [COVID-19 Checklist for Using Outdoor Recreational Amenities](#).

Closures

- Team sports are not permitted.
- Instructional programs are not permitted.
- Activities likely to result in individuals coming within two metres/six feet of each other are not permitted.
- Food and drink are not to be consumed at the facility, but may be purchased for take-away only.
- Locker rooms, change rooms, and showers are closed.
 - Exception: if required to provide access to equipment storage, a washroom, or a portion of the facility is used to provide first aid.

Measures for all Workplaces, Businesses and Organizations

Review the [Guidance for Employers on Preventing COVID-19 in the Workplace](#) to plan and implement protocols to keep staff and participants safe. Operators must also consider the following:

- **Health screening for staff and participants**
 - [Actively screen](#) all staff before they enter the facility. Questions can be answered on paper, online or by asking people directly.
 - All patrons must [self-screen](#) prior to attending the facility.
 - People who become ill while at the facility 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.
 - Remind staff and participants to stay at home when they are ill, even if symptoms are mild.

Workplace Safety Plan

Operators must prepare and make available a safety plan, and the plan must:

- Describe measures/procedures that have been or will be implemented in the business, place, facility or establishment to reduce spread of COVID-19.
- Include measures for screening, physical distancing, masks, cleaning, disinfecting and personal protective equipment (PPE).
- Be in writing and made available to any person for review, on request.
- Be posted in a visible place to come to the attention of those working or attending the location.

Use the [COVID-19 Safety Plan Checklist](#) to develop your safety plan.

Capacity limits

- The total number of patrons permitted at the facility must be limited to the number that can maintain a physical distance of at least two metres from other people, and cannot exceed 50 per cent capacity of the facility.
- It is strongly recommended to restrict capacity to **25 people**.
- Designate and manage entry and exit points to control the number of people entering the facility. If the maximum number of people is reached, allow one person in for every person that leaves.
- Stagger arrivals and departures, where possible, to reduce congestion at points of entrance and exit and in common areas.

Registrations and Reservations

- Appointments/reservations with set time slots are recommended. Encourage online or telephone sales and registration processes.
- Encourage participants to only register and attend the rink with persons from their household.
 - Ask participants to arrive no more than 10 minutes before their reserved time slot and leave the facility immediately after the activity. This will help operators manage capacity and physical distancing. It will also allow others the opportunity to utilize amenity.
- Remind participants that change rooms are closed, with the exception of washroom use.
 - It is recommended that participants arrive at the facility fully dressed, except for skates.
- Install [physical barriers](#) (e.g. plexiglass shield) at point of sale, registration and help desks where physical distancing between staff and participants is difficult.
- Use a contactless process to log attendance (e.g. scanner), if necessary.
- Encourage electronic payment by debit or credit card, and to tap instead of using the PIN pad.

Safety Requirements

- Caregivers are encouraged to accompany young children. Children 5 years of age and under must be accompanied by caregiver.
- For leisure skate at City of Toronto-owned ice surfaces, a CSA approved helmet is mandatory for children under the age of 6, and highly recommended for all other skaters.

Promote Physical Distancing

- [Physical distancing](#) of at least **two metres/six feet** is required at all times except for individuals living in the same household. This includes while skating, walking through the facility, and putting on and removing skates. Caregivers must also maintain physical distancing while waiting for their child(ren).
- Discourage the congregation of participants before and after use of the facility.

Modify the space

Plan and modify the layout of your facility to ensure enough space is provided for staff and participants to maintain physical distancing.

- Use cues (e.g. stickers) to promote physical distancing where appropriate (e.g. designate where each person should put on and take off their skates).
- Design traffic flow that encourages one-way movement with prominent signage and/or ground markings.
- Ensure enough space for people in high traffic areas.
- Identify areas where crowding and bottlenecks are common, such as washrooms, and use staff or barriers to redirect people who may gather in these areas.

Modify programming

- Cancel activities where physical distancing or other appropriate controls cannot be implemented.
- Allow sufficient time between activities to allow safe and distanced exit and entry, and sufficient environmental cleaning in between.

Monitor and manage lines

- Post [physical distancing signs](#) at all entrances, service desks or otherwise.
- Place visual/textural markers spaced two metres/six feet apart (e.g. pylons, signs) to encourage physical distancing and guide participants.
- Physical distancing and the use of masks/face coverings for guests waiting/lining-up outside is mandatory under Provincial Order [O. Reg. 82/20](#)

- Assign staff to monitor lines and to make public announcements reminding participants to keep two metres/six feet apart and wear a mask.

Use of Masks and Face Coverings

- All staff and participants must wear a mask or face covering indoors (e.g. while accessing washrooms), as per the City of Toronto [bylaw](#) and [O. Reg. 82/20](#).
- Masks or face coverings are strongly recommended outdoors when physical distancing cannot be maintained.
- Facility owners and operators **must develop a policy** on the wearing of masks, as per the City of Toronto [bylaw](#), and train staff accordingly. Use the [Mask Checklist and Sample Policy](#).
 - It is recommended that operators make the wearing of masks or face coverings mandatory on and off the ice for staff and patrons.

Use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- A surgical/procedure (medical) mask and eye protection must be used by workers when they are unable to maintain physical distance of at least two metres/six feet from any unmasked individuals where a physical barrier is not present.
- The employer must determine what PPE is required and ensure that it is worn by workers.
- Educate staff on the [proper use and disposal of masks](#) and PPE.

Practice Proper Hand Hygiene and Respiratory Etiquette

- Encourage participants to practice good hand hygiene before, during and after using the facility.
- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 15 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use hand sanitizer with 70-90% alcohol concentration.
- 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.

Enhance cleaning and disinfection

- Any equipment rented or used must be **cleaned and disinfected** between each use.
 - Establish and post clear policies requiring wipe down equipment before and after every use.
 - Provide adequate supplies and garbage bins for disposing used materials.
 - Encourage participants to bring their own gear for personal use, when practical and possible (e.g. helmet, water bottle, training aids).
- Do not use equipment or fixed structures that cannot be cleaned between each use.

- Assign staff to complete environmental cleaning and disinfection duties.
- Ensure frequent cleaning and disinfecting of high-touch surfaces and objects in staff and public areas at least twice a day and when visibly dirty.
 - Review Public Health Ontario's [Cleaning and Disinfection for Public Settings](#) fact sheet.
 - Refer to Health Canada's [list of hard surface disinfectants for use against COVID-19](#).
- Ensure washrooms, hand sinks and water fountains are cleaned and disinfected as frequently as necessary to maintain a sanitary environment, and at least twice daily.
 - Water fountains should only be used to re-fill water bottles. Do not allow individuals to drink directly from them.
- Provide waste receptacles lined with a plastic bag, and empty as often as necessary.

Increase Public Health Awareness

- Provide information to staff and participants about facility operations (e.g. public health measures, available amenities) through different communication platforms (e.g. web, email social media).
- Encourage staff and participants to download the [COVID Alert app](#) so they can be notified directly if they have been in close contact with someone who was contagious with COVID-19.
- Download information and display posters in high visibility areas in your setting to promote messages about how to stay safe during the COVID-19 pandemic:
 - [COVID-19: Posters & Graphics](#)
 - [COVID-19 Fact Sheet](#)

Other Resources

[COVID-19 Checklist for Using Outdoor Recreational Amenities](#)

[Guidance for Employers on Preventing COVID-19 in the Workplace](#)

[Guidance for Employers on Managing COVID-19 in the Workplace](#)

[Provincial Guidance for the Sports Sector during COVID-19](#)

More Information

For more information, visit our website at toronto.ca/COVID19 or call us at 416-338-7600.

References

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2020). *COVID-19 Employer Information for Gyms and Fitness Centers*. Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/gym-employers.html>

Revised March 9, 2021

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Work Safe BC. (2020). *Gyms and fitness centres: Protocols for returning to operation*. Retrieved from: <https://www.worksafebc.com/en/about-us/covid-19-updates/covid-19-returning-safe-operation/gyms-and-fitness-centres>