

Revised April 6, 2021

COVID-19 Guidance for Outdoor Recreational Amenities

This guidance document describes the requirements that outdoor recreational amenities, such as golf courses, driving ranges, tennis courts, sports fields etc. must comply with under the [Reopening Ontario Act](#).

Owners and operators 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, patrons). See Provincial Orders [O. Reg. 82/20](#) for more information.

The aim and purpose of this document is to assist individuals and businesses with information related to the Ontario Government's reopening framework as well as Toronto Public Health requirements to reduce the spread of COVID-19. It is important to know that breaches of some of these directions will constitute offences under provincial regulations or other public health legal requirements. While we aim to provide relevant and timely information, no guarantee can be given as to the accuracy or completeness of any information provided. This guidance is not intended to nor does it provide legal advice and should not be relied upon or treated as legal advice. Users seeking legal advice should consult with a qualified legal professional.

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

Provincial Orders ([O. Reg. 82/20](#))

- A number of outdoor recreational amenities are permitted to open with restrictions, including driving ranges, golf courses, tennis courts, soccer, football and sports fields, etc. See [O. Reg. 82/20](#) Section 4 of Schedule 3 for a full list of amenities.
- Team sports must not be practised or played within the amenity, with the exception of training sessions for members of a sports team that do not include games or scrimmage games.
- Other sports, games or activities that are likely to result in individuals coming within two metres of each other are not permitted.
- Locker rooms, change rooms, showers, clubhouses, pools, meeting rooms, fitness centres or other recreational facilities on the premises must be closed.
 - Exception: if required to provide access to equipment storage, a washroom, or a portion of the facility is used to provide first aid.
- Facilities with restaurants or food premises can open for take-out and delivery only.

Revised April 6, 2021

- The number of members of the public at any facility or business, including facilities for indoor or outdoor sports and recreational fitness activities, must be limited so that:
 - physical distancing can be maintained, and
 - the total number does not exceed **50 per cent capacity** of the facility.
- Organized gatherings or events cannot exceed 5 people outdoors. See [COVID-19 Guidance for Indoor & Outdoor Events & Gatherings](#) for more information.

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 patrons safe. Operators must also consider the following:

- **Health screening for staff and participants**
 - [Actively screen](#) all staff before they enter the workplace or begin their shift.
 - All patrons must [self-screen](#) prior to attending the amenity.
 - People who become ill while at the amenity should go home immediately, 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.
- **Hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette**
 - Encourage participants to practice good [hand hygiene](#) before, during and after using the amenity.
 - Provide hand sanitizer with 70-90% alcohol concentration for staff and patron use, if possible.
- **Enhanced cleaning and disinfecting**
 - Encourage participants to bring their own gear for personal use, when practical and possible (e.g. helmet, water bottle, balls, rackets, training aids).
 - If possible, assign staff to their own equipment (e.g. golf cart).
 - 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.
 - Any equipment rented or used by members of the public must be cleaned and disinfected as frequently as is necessary to maintain a sanitary condition.

Workplace Safety Plan

- Operators must prepare and make available a written safety plan.
- The plan must describe measures/procedures that have been or will be implemented in the facility or establishment to reduce spread of COVID-19, including screening for symptoms, physical distancing, use of masks and/or personal protective equipment, and frequent cleaning and disinfecting.

Revised April 6, 2021

- The safety plan must be posted in a visible location and be available to anyone upon request.
- Use the [COVID-19 Safety Plan Checklist](#) to develop your safety plan.

Limit Capacity

- The number of members of the public at any facility or business, including facilities for indoor or outdoor sports and recreational fitness activities, must be limited so that:
 - physical distancing can be maintained, and
 - the total number does not exceed 50 per cent capacity of the facility. This can be calculated taking the total square metres of area accessible to the public, dividing that number by 8 and rounding the result down to the nearest whole number.
- Designate and manage entry and exit points to control the number of people entering the amenity. 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, where possible. Encourage online or telephone sales and registration processes.
- Increase time intervals between groups.
- Encourage participants to only register and attend the amenity with persons from their household.
 - Ask participants to arrive no more than 10-20 minutes before their reserved time slot and leave the amenity immediately after the activity. This will help operators manage capacity and physical distancing. It will also allow others the opportunity to utilize the amenity.
- Remind participants that change rooms are closed, with the exception of washroom use.
 - It is recommended that participants arrive at the amenity fully dressed/prepared for the activity.
- 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.

Practice Physical Distancing

- All individuals who enter or use the amenity must maintain at least two metres/six feet physical distancing from others, unless from the same household.
- Post [physical distancing signs](#) at all entrances, service desks or where appropriate.

Revised April 6, 2021

- Remove furniture/ equipment for ease of movement while maintaining physical distancing.
- Use signs, pylons or other markers to encourage one-way traffic flow and physical distancing.
- Use barriers or install plexiglass by the registration/cash area, and other locations that may involve close contact between customer and staff.
- Install barriers/partitions or block off alternate amenities such as driving ranges/tee decks, benches, etc., as required and where possible, to allow for two metres/six feet distancing.
 - Power carts can be shared if riders belong to the same household or dividers are installed between riders. Have one dedicated driver and keep with the same seating arrangements for the duration of the game.
- Discourage the congregation of participants before and after use of the amenity.

Wear a Mask

- [Toronto by-law 541-2020](#) and [Ontario regulation](#) requires the use of mask in all public indoor settings.
- Masks must also be worn by all individuals, unless [exempted](#), while:
 - waiting in line outside or within the establishment;
 - driving or riding on an open air vehicle within the amenity (e.g. golf cart), unless those within the vehicle are members of the same household; and
 - outdoors if physical distancing is difficult.
- Operators are required to develop a policy on the wearing of masks. Use the [Checklist on Mask By-law and Sample Policy](#).
- Staff should be trained on the mask policy, and understand who is exempted from wearing a mask. Proof of exemption is not required.
- More information on the bylaw is available [here](#).

Indoor Facilities / Clubhouse

- Clubhouses, locker rooms, changes rooms, showers, pools, meeting rooms, fitness centres or other recreational facilities on the premises must be closed, except to provide access to equipment storage, a washroom or a portion of the amenity that is used to provide first aid.
- Indoor events and gatherings are not permitted. Outdoor gatherings cannot exceed 5 people.
- Background music should not exceed normal conversation decibel level.
- Maintain premise HVAC systems to ensure they are in good working order.
- Indoor retail (e.g. Pro Shop) is permitted to operate, as per [Guidance for Retail Settings](#).

Team Sports

- Team sports are currently not permitted, with the exception of training sessions for members of a sports team that do not include games or scrimmage games.
- Training sessions must follow all applicable health and safety measures. Refer to applicable sports association for additional information.

Instructional Programs and Day Camps

- Instructional programs are not permitted.
- Day camps for children are not permitted.

Food Premise or Service

- Indoor and outdoor dining is not permitted.
- Food premises may open for outdoor dining, take-out and delivery. See [Guidance for Food Service Premises](#) for more information.
- Water fountains can reopen with [routine cleaning](#), twice daily.

Communications

- Inform staff and customers about amenity operations and new measures taken to keep everyone safe. Information should be updated on your website, by automated booking systems, telephone messages and/or e-mail subscriptions.
- [Print posters](#) for entrances and other locations, including [mandatory mask bylaw](#).
- Encourage customers and staff to download the [COVID Alert app](#). They may be notified if they have been in close contact with someone who test positive for COVID-19.

More Information

Visit our website at toronto.ca/COVID19 or call us at 416-338-7600.

Other Resources

[COVID-19 Checklist for Using Outdoor Recreational Amenities](#)
[Guidance for Employers on Preventing COVID-19 in the Workplace](#)

This document does not replace the need for applicable permits. COVID-19 mitigation and safety measures do not replace pre-existing permit requirements, health and safety practices, or conditions.