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. 364/20 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.

See COVID-19- Guidance for Sports & Recreational Fitness Facilities for information about outdoor fitness classes, team sports and personal training.

Information for the public can be found in the COVID-19 Checklist for Using Outdoor Recreational Amenities.

Encourage COVID-19 Vaccination

- It is strongly recommended that all employers implement a workplace vaccination policy. Find more information at COVID-19 Vaccine Information for Employers.
- A person responsible for the outdoor recreational amenity, in respect of indoor clubhouses, may elect to require patrons to provide proof of identification and of being fully vaccinated against COVID-19. If this option is elected, the operator:
  - Is not required to limit the number of members of the public so that they are able to maintain a physical distance of at least two metres from every other person.
  - Must require each patron who enters to provide, at the point of entry, proof of identification and of being fully vaccinated against COVID-19.
Must post signs at all entrances to the premises of the business or facility, in a conspicuous location visible to the public, that inform patrons that proof of vaccination is required in order to enter the premises.

See Proof of vaccination information for businesses and organizations for more information.

- Patrons are required to show proof of being fully vaccinated for COVID-19 to access some businesses and settings, including meeting and event spaces, and facilities used for sports and recreational fitness activities. Learn more at Proof of COVID-19 Vaccination.
- Encourage guests and staff who were born in 2016 or earlier to get vaccinated with the COVID-19 vaccine.
  - See COVID-19 Vaccine Information for Sports, Recreation, Arts & Culture Organizations for helpful resources.
  - Read and share information about the vaccine and where to get vaccinated.
  - Post signs and share COVID-19 vaccine resources, available in multiple languages.

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.
  - 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
  - Washrooms, locker rooms, change rooms, showers or similar amenities must be cleaned and disinfected as frequently as is necessary to maintain a sanitary condition.
  - Ensure frequent cleaning and disinfecting of high-touch surfaces and objects at least once a day and when visibly dirty. See Cleaning and Disinfection for Public Settings for more information.
  - If possible, assign staff to their own equipment (e.g. golf cart).
• Encourage participants to bring their own gear for personal use, when practical and possible (e.g. helmet, water bottle, balls, rackets, training aids).
• 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.
• Maintain premise HVAC systems to ensure they are in good working order.

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, frequent cleaning and disinfecting, and preventing and controlling crowding.
• Personal physical fitness trainers, and facilities for indoor or outdoor sports and recreational fitness activities shall also include information as to how the business, place or event will,
  ▪ prevent gatherings and crowds in the business or place or at the event;
  ▪ ensure that physical distancing and wearing of masks in lines as applicable is complied with in the business or place or at the event; and
  ▪ mitigate the risk of any interactive activities, exhibits or games that may be included in the business or place or at the event.
• 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

• Subject to any other requirements set out in O. Reg. 364/20 with respect to capacity limits, the person responsible for a place of business or facility that is open to the public and that is operating in an indoor setting shall limit the number of members of the public in the place of business or facility so that the members of the public are able to maintain a physical distance of at least two metres from every other person in the business or facility.
• For businesses that choose not to require proof of vaccination of patrons, the total number of members of the public permitted to be in any indoor clubhouse at the outdoor recreational amenity at any one time must be limited to the number that can maintain a physical distance of at least two metres from every other person in the indoor clubhouse and in any event may not exceed 50 per cent of the capacity of the clubhouse.
This can be calculated by taking 50 per cent of the maximum occupant load of the business or facility, or part of a business or facility, as applicable, as calculated in accordance with Ontario Regulation 213/07 (Fire Code), made under the Fire Protection and Prevention Act, 1997.

The person responsible for the outdoor amenity must post a sign in a conspicuous location visible to the public that states the capacity limits under which the indoor clubhouse is permitted to operate.

If the person responsible for an indoor clubhouse at the outdoor recreational amenity rents its space, the conditions for meeting and event spaces apply. See COVID-19 Guidance for Indoor & Outdoor Events & Gatherings for more information.

- Organized public events cannot exceed 25 people indoors. Social gatherings cannot exceed 25 people indoors or 100 people outdoors. See COVID-19 Guidance for Indoor & Outdoor Events & Gatherings for more information.
- 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.
- 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.
- Encourage participants to 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 must maintain at least two metres physical distancing from people they don’t live with indoors.
  - Exceptions include indoor clubhouses when operators elect to require proof of vaccination, as per section 2.2 of Schedule 1 of O. Reg. 364/20.
While capacity restrictions may be lifted due to proof of vaccination requirements, reducing crowding and maintaining physical distance as much as possible are still recommended to prevent spread of COVID-19.

- Offer programming/services outdoors whenever possible.
  - If using a tent or canopy, at least two full sides must be open to the outdoors and not substantially blocked by any walls or other impermeable barriers.
  - Limit capacity under the tent/canopy to ensure physical distancing can be maintained.
  - Arrange tables and chairs to promote physical distancing.
  - Require masks or face coverings if physical distancing cannot be maintained.
- Post physical distancing signs at all entrances, service desks or where appropriate.
- 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 distancing.
  - Power carts should not be shared unless 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**

- Masks must also be worn by all individuals, unless **exempted**, while:
  - 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 with indoor spaces that are open to the public are required to develop a policy on the wearing of masks. Use the [Checklist on Mask By-law and Sample Policy](https://www.toronto.ca/en/services/health/wearing-masks.html).
- 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](https://www.toronto.ca/en/services/health/wearing-masks.html).
Food & Drink

- Indoor and outdoor dining is permitted with restrictions. See Guidance for Food Premises for more information.
- Water fountains can reopen with routine cleaning.
  - Encourage individuals to use a cup or reusable bottle, rather than drinking directly from the spout.

Day Camps

- Day camps for children are permitted if they comply with COVID-19 safety guidelines provided by the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health.

Communications

- Inform staff and patrons 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 tested 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 Sport, Fitness & Recreational Amenities
COVID-19- Guidance for Sports & Recreational Fitness Facilities
COVID-19 Guidance for Outdoor Playground & Fitness Equipment
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.