

## COVID-19 Guidance for Outdoor Recreational Amenities

This guidance document describes the requirements that outdoor recreational amenities, such as ice rinks, ski and toboggan hills, 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. 263/20](#) 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 Sport, Fitness & Recreational Amenities](#).

### What is Permitted ([O. Reg. 263/20](#))

- **Indoor** recreational amenities are closed.
- Outdoor recreational amenities may open if they comply with the following conditions:
  - Any steam rooms and saunas on the premises must be closed.
  - Clubhouses must be closed, except,
    - for the purpose of serving food or beverages to members or patrons in compliance with [O. Reg. 263/20](#) (See [COVID-19 guidance for food premises](#)),
    - for the purpose of being used by appointment as event or meeting space in accordance with [O. Reg. 263/20](#) (see [COVID-19 guidance for events and gatherings](#)),
    - to the extent they provide access equipment storage, a change room, shower room or washroom, or a portion of the facility that is used to provide first aid.

## 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](#).
- 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 age 5 and older to get vaccinated for COVID-19.
  - 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).

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- 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.

## Registrations and Reservations

- Appointments/reservations with set time slots are recommended, where possible. Encourage online or telephone sales and registration processes.
- Stagger arrivals and departures, where possible to reduce congestion at points of entry and exit and in common areas.
- Increase time intervals between groups.
- Ask participants to arrive no more than 10 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

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- All individuals must maintain at least two metres physical distancing from people they don't live with indoors. Physical distancing is strongly recommended outdoors.
- 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

- [Toronto by-law 541-2020](#) and [Ontario regulation](#) requires the use of masks in all public indoor settings.
- 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
- Masks are strongly recommended 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](#).
- 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](#).

## Food & Drink

- Indoor dining is not permitted. See [Guidance for Food Premises](#) for more information.



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- Water fountains can reopen with [routine cleaning](#).
  - Encourage individuals to use a cup or reusable bottle, rather than drinking directly from the spout.

## Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) Systems

- Ensure the HVAC system(s) are properly maintained.
- Increase outdoor air-exchange by:
  - Maximizing the outdoor air ratio of the HVAC system settings, or
  - Opening windows and doors, if it is safe to do so
- Use the highest efficiency filters that are compatible with the HVAC system, if provided.
- Keep seating and activities away from air vents and areas with high airflow.
- Do not obstruct HVAC inlets and outlets.
- When using ceiling fans, use an upward airflow rotation.
- If portable fans are used, position fan with an upward movement to avoid blowing of air across people and surfaces.
- There is no evidence the use of portable air purifiers will prevent the spread of COVID-19. If used, follow the manufacturer's directions to decide where best to place the device. Follow the manufacturer's instructions on maintenance.
- For more information, review the [COVID-19: Transmission, Aerosols and Ventilation](#) fact sheet.

## 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 test positive for COVID-19.

## More Information

Visit our website at [toronto.ca/COVID19](https://toronto.ca/COVID19) or call us at 416-338-7600.

## Other Resources

[Ontario Public Health Measures and Advice](#)

[COVID-19 Checklist for Using Sport, Fitness & Recreational Amenities](#)

[COVID-19- Guidance for Sports & Recreational Fitness Facilities](#)

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[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.