

What will the Final Stages of Reopening Ontario look like?

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Ontario moved to the next phase of reopening on February 17, what does this include?

Ontario has further eased public health measures, including, but not limited to:

- Increasing social gathering limits to 50 people indoors and 100 people outdoors
- Increasing organized public event limits to 50 people indoors, with no limit outdoors
- Removing capacity limits in the following indoor public settings where proof of vaccination is required, including but not limited to:
 - Restaurants, bars and other food or drink establishments without dance facilities
 - Non-spectator areas of sports and recreational fitness facilities, including gyms
 - Cinemas
 - Meeting and event spaces, including conference centres or convention centres
 - Casinos, bingo halls and other gaming establishments
 - Indoor areas of settings that choose to opt-in to proof of vaccination requirements.
- Allowing 50 per cent of the usual seating capacity at sports arenas
- Allowing 50 percent of the usual seating capacity for concert venues and theatres
- Increasing indoor capacity limits to 25 per cent in the remaining higher-risk settings where proof of vaccination is required, including nightclubs, restaurants where there is dancing, as well as bathhouses and sex clubs
- Increasing capacity limits for indoor weddings, funerals or religious services, rites, or ceremonies to the number of people who can maintain two metres physical distance. Capacity limits are removed if the location opts-in to use proof of vaccination or if the service, rite, or ceremony is occurring outdoors.

Capacity limits in other indoor public settings, such as grocery stores, pharmacies, retail and shopping malls, will be maintained at, or increased to, the number of people who can maintain two metres physical distance.

In addition, as of 8:00 a.m. on Friday, February 18, 2022, Ontario is expanding booster dose eligibility to youth aged 12 to 17. Appointments can be booked through the [provincial booking system](#) and the Provincial Vaccine Contact Centre, as well as at [select pharmacies](#) administering the Pfizer vaccine. Appointments will be booked for approximately six months (168 days) after a second dose. To book an appointment online, individuals must be 12 years old at the time of appointment.

Effective March 1, 2022

Ontario will continue to ease public health measures, as long as public health and health system indicators continue to improve. This includes lifting capacity limits in all remaining indoor public settings.

Ontario will also lift proof of vaccination requirements for all setting. Businesses and other settings may choose to continue to require proof of vaccination if they wish to. Masking requirements will remain in place, and the government has stated that they will inform the public of any plans to lift this mandate.

“Thanks to the efforts of Ontarians to help blunt the transmission of Omicron, our health care indicators suggest a general improvement in the COVID-19 situation in the province,” said Dr. Kieran Moore, Chief Medical Officer of Health. “We are now in a position to lift more public health measures, but it is important to stay vigilant, as we don’t want to cause any further disruption to people’s everyday lives. We must continue to prevent the transmission of COVID-19 in our communities by following the measures in place and by vaccinating those who have not yet received their doses.”

We have yet to hear what will happen moving forward after March 1, but the province of Ontario is hopeful that there will be no future lockdowns. We as a community must stay smart and proceed with caution to ensure that the numbers of cases remain low and to keep our peers and ourselves safe.

Ontario has also reported a 2-month low in hospitalizations

The province has reported a decrease in hospitalizations, with a drop of 1281 from last week. This is the lowest record of hospitalizations in two months. As of February 25, at 10:59am we

are seeing 1003 people in hospital with 297 in the ICU. 186 of those in intensive care are currently on ventilators.

Sources:

- 1: [Ontario Moving to Next Phase of Reopening on February 17 | Ontario Newsroom](#)
 - 2: <https://toronto.citynews.ca/2022/02/25/ontario-covid-numbers-february-25/>
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If you think you may be experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, take the self-assessment at www.ontario.ca/coronavirus. Follow all directions from your medical provider or your local health unit at the following phone numbers:

Telehealth Ontario: 1-866-797-0000

Toronto Public Health: 416-338-7600

Peel Public Health: 905-799-7700

Durham Region Health Department: 905-668-7711

York Region Public Health: 1-877-464-9675