

Covid-19 Restrictions

This document was prepared on January 7, 2022 by Nicole Volpe.

Nicole works for North Yorkers for Disabled Persons as an Outreach Communication Facilitator. She can be reached at nicole.nydp@gmail.com.

This document is not meant to provide or take the place of medical advice, diagnosis or treatment, or legal advice.

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New Covid-19 Restrictions – Ontario

The Ontario government has implemented new Covid-19 restrictions on January 5, 2021 at 12:01am. They have been put in place due to the uprise in cases due to the Omicron variant. On Thursday January 6, we saw 13,339 new cases being reported, however due to overwhelmed labs and with many being unable to get tested, the numbers are estimated to be much higher.

The province also announced that all publicly funded and private schools will continue with remote learning starting January 5 until at least January 17.

Ford said the decision to close schools, was decided on because the province is unable to guarantee schools will be fully staffed, due to so many teachers expected to be off sick.

The new restrictions that have been put in place, are as followed:

Gatherings and events

Social gatherings are permitted under the following conditions:

- indoor gatherings limited to five people or fewer
- outdoor gatherings limited to 10 people or fewer

Organized public events are permitted under the following conditions:

- indoor events limited to five people or fewer
- outdoor events have no limits on number of attendees, but face coverings and/or masks must be worn when distancing (two metres or more) cannot be maintained

Weddings, funerals, religious services, rites and ceremonies are permitted under the following conditions:

- indoor services are limited to 50 per cent the capacity of the room
- outdoor services are limited to the number of people who can maintain two metres distance
- drive-in (motor vehicle) services permitted
- social gatherings associated with these services must adhere to the social gathering limits

Retirement homes

Retirement homes are exempt from organized public event and social gathering restrictions if the home is in compliance with the policies or guidance, if any, issued by the [Retirement Homes Regulatory Authority](#).

Restrictions for businesses

Work from home

Businesses and organizations must make sure that all work is conducted remotely, unless the nature of the work requires workers to be on-site at the workplace.

Retail

All retail must operate under the following conditions:

- 50 per cent capacity
- music played is not above a decibel level where normal conversation is possible
- active screening at photography studios and services
- safety measures for vehicle test drives sales, such as a maximum of 10 minutes for a test drive, a maximum of two people in a vehicle, including one sales representative, windows must be rolled down, active screening, masking, etc.
- safety measures for shopping malls, including capacity limits, no loitering, distancing in line ups, food courts closed and active screening.

Camps

Day and overnight camps are closed.

Meeting and events spaces, and food and drink establishments

Restaurants, bars and other food or drink establishments, including those with dance floors (such as nightclubs) and strip clubs must operate under the following conditions:

- indoor service closed
- take out, drive through and delivery allowed
- outdoor areas open with restrictions including, but not limited to:
 - no more than 10 people per table
 - patrons must remain seated
 - no dancing or singing
 - active screening
 - limited hours for the sale, service and consumption of liquor

Meeting and event spaces, including conference centres and convention centres must operate under the following conditions:

- indoor areas closed with exceptions, such as child care, court and government services, social services, health services, collective bargaining and mental health/addiction services up to 10 people, in-person exams for limited fields/occupations up to 50 people
- outdoor areas open with restrictions including, but not limited to:
 - no more than 10 people per table
 - patrons must remain seated
 - no dancing or singing
 - active screening
 - limited hours for the sale, service and consumption of liquor

Sports and recreational fitness activities

Indoor areas of facilities used for sports and recreational fitness activities, including gyms, sporting events and personal training must operate under the following conditions:

- indoor closed with limited exceptions and conditions (such as athletes training for Olympics and Paralympics, select professional and elite amateur sport leagues who will operate via an approved framework from the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health and persons with disabilities for physical therapy)
- outdoor open with spectators limited to 50 per cent capacity and other restrictions
- proof of vaccination required for facilities with a usual capacity of 20,000 or more people

Recreational amenities

Recreational amenities must operate under the following conditions:

- indoor recreational amenities closed
- outdoor recreational amenities open

Entertainment

Concert venues, theatres, cinemas, museums, galleries, zoos, science centres , landmarks, historic sites, botanical gardens and similar attractions, amusement parks, waterparks, tour and guide services including boat tours, fairs, rural exhibitions and festivals must operate under the following conditions:

- outdoor open with restrictions (such as masking on rides)
- spectators at seated events at 50 per cent capacity
- outdoor tours and boat tours at 50 per cent capacity
- drive-in and drive through events permitted with restrictions, such as distancing between cars, only permitted to leave a vehicle in limited circumstances, etc.
- indoor areas of concert venues, theatres and cinemas closed except for rehearsing or performing a recorded or broadcasted performance, artistic event or performance, with restrictions

Commercial film and television production

- studio audiences not permitted
 - Restrictions, including performers must be distanced unless necessary

Casinos and racing venues

Casinos, bingo halls and other gaming establishments will be closed.

Horse and car racing tracks and similar venues must operate under the following conditions:

- indoor areas closed
- outdoor areas open with restrictions, including mandatory reservations, spectators limited to 50 per cent of usual seating capacity and others
- proof of vaccination required for facilities with a usual capacity of 20,000 or more people.

Personal care services

Saunas, steam rooms and oxygen bars will be closed.

Personal care services such as barbers, hair salons, tattoo parlours must operate under the following conditions:

- 50 per cent capacity
- no services where face coverings need to be removed
- by appointment only
- active screening

- music played is not above a decibel level where normal conversation is possible

Short-term accommodation

Hotels, motels and similar establishments must operate under the following conditions:

- open except for any area required to be closed, such as indoor gyms, pools, steam rooms/saunas
- restaurants within the hotel or motel may offer takeout or delivery only

Short-term rentals must operate under the following conditions:

- only open to those in need of housing (does not apply to hotels, motels, lodges, resorts and other shared rental accommodation, including student residences.)
- ice fishing huts permitted with restrictions

Other service providers

Liquor sales and service are permitted under the following conditions:

- sale of alcohol must end at 10 p.m. and no consumption of alcohol on-premise in businesses or settings after 11 p.m., with the exception of delivery and takeout services, grocery and convenience stores and other liquor retail stores

Real estate agencies must operate under the following conditions:

- property viewings by appointment only
- no open houses

Businesses that provide in-person teaching or instruction (such as cooking classes, music classes) must operate under the following conditions:

- indoor areas closed, except for organizations that provide health and safety training (with conditions)
- outdoor areas open with restrictions in place, such as physical distancing

Driving instruction must be conducted under the following conditions:

- limited to in-person instruction for drivers of commercial motor vehicles only.

Libraries and community centres must operate under the following conditions:

- open with 50 per cent capacity, with limited exceptions, such as child care, social services

Sources:

- 1: [COVID-19 public health measures and advice | COVID-19 \(coronavirus\) in Ontario](#)
- 2: [Full list of new Ontario COVID-19 restrictions for modified Step 2 | CTV News](#)
- 3: [COVID-19: Guide for Toronto Residents – City of Toronto](#)
- 4: [Ontario moves school online, closes indoor dining and gyms as part of sweeping new COVID-19 measures | CBC News](#)

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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