

Ontario Lifts Mask Mandates in Most Places

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This article is paraphrased from a City of Toronto news release that was published last week. Click [here](#) to read the original source.

In case you missed it, last week the Province of Ontario announced that most of the remaining mask requirements will be lifted throughout the province. Ontario's mask mandate officially ended on Saturday, June 11.

The provincial government announced that masks will continue to be required in Long-Term Care and retirement homes. According to provincial law, wearing a mask will be recommended but not required in congregate living settings, such as shelters and group homes. Some of these settings may continue to require masks for the safety of others.

In the City of Toronto, masks are still required in certain congregate settings to protect the health and safety of residents and staff.

The following City services and facilities have been impacted:

TTC, Transit and Union Station

Masks are still required for customers and employees using TTC's Wheel-Trans. Masks are optional on TTC vehicles and in stations, but the TTC encourages customers to continue to wear masks. Masks are also optional on GO Transit and UP Express.

City of Toronto Long-Term Care homes

At this time, mask, screening, and testing requirements will continue in all City directly-operated Long-Term Care homes. Click [here](#) for up-to-date information about City Long-Term Care homes, including visiting requirements.

Shelter, Support and Housing Administration

To protect the health and safety of staff and clients, masks are still required for shelters, 24-hour respite sites, and 24-hour women's drop-in sites. All screening, testing and infection prevention and control measures in shelter settings are not changing.

City of Toronto Children’s Services

At this time, masks are required for child care staff, in indoor settings, when interacting with children, their families and other staff.

The City’s Children’s Services division is continuing to work with Occupational Health and Safety to determine any updates to policies that would ensure the health and safety of staff and children in City-operated child care centres while following provincial direction. Any change to policy will be communicated to families and staff in advance.

City-operated Ferries

Masks are optional on City-operated ferries.

Other City Facilities

Masks are optional for visitors to most City facilities, including community centres. Anyone choosing to wear a mask in these places will be supported in their choice.

Besides continuing to wear my mask, what else can I do to protect myself?

Toronto Public Health encourages everyone to stay up to date with their COVID-19 vaccines, including all booster doses (third and fourth doses), for best protection against serious illness linked to this virus.

Recent data show that residents who kept up to date with their vaccinations were better protected against serious consequences linked to the virus, when compared to those who were unvaccinated or under-vaccinated.

The COVID-19 pandemic is not over. The virus continues to circulate in the community. Everyone is strongly encouraged to protect themselves with layers of protection, including getting vaccinated and staying home if they are feeling unwell.

It’s also helpful to wear a high-quality, well-fitting mask, especially when you will be indoors. Click [here](#) for more information from the City of Toronto’s COVID-19: Reduce Virus Spread Guide webpage. Click [here](#) to read more about layers of protection.

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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