A Plan to Safely Reopen Ontario and Manage COVID-19 for the Long Term

September 22, 2021

 Begin to require proof of vaccination in higher-risk indoor settings

September 25, 2021

Begin easing capacity limits in certain settings

October 9, 2021

 Lift capacity limits in certain settings where proof of vaccination is required

October 22, 2021

 Enhanced vaccine certificate with official QR code and Verify Ontario app launched

October 25, 2021

Lift capacity limits where proof of vaccination is required in:

- restaurants and bars
- sports, recreational fitness facilities (such as, gyms), physical fitness training and waterparks
- casinos, bingo halls, and other gaming establishments
- meeting and event spaces (indoor)

Permit certain settings to lift capacity limits if they require proof of vaccination, including, but not limited to:

- museums, galleries, etc.
- religious services, rites, or ceremonies
- tour and guide services
- personal care services, including barber shops, salons, body art

March 28, 2022 (and onwards)

- All remaining public health and workplace safety measures in businesses and organizations lifted, including masking
- Revoke public health Emergency Orders under the Reopening Ontario Act
- Recommendations on where masking could be maintained (such as transit)

Fall 2021

November 15, 2021

Lift capacity limits in other high-risk settings where proof of vaccination is required:

- food or drink establishments with dance facilities such as, night clubs, wedding receptions in meeting/event spaces where there is dancing
- strip clubs
- bathhouses and sex clubs

Winter 2021-2022

Spring 2022

restaurants and bars

January 17, 2022

- sports and recreational fitness facilities (such as, gyms) and waterparks
- casinos, bingo halls, etc.

February 7, 2022

- night clubs
- strip clubs
- bathhouses and sex clubs

March 28, 2022

- meeting and event spaces
- sporting events
- concerts, theatres and cinemas
- racing venues
- commercial and film productions with studio audiences

Also begin to lift CMOH directives and capacity limits in settings where proof of vaccination is not required.

Monitoring COVID-19

- As the province safely reopens, the government will monitor trends in COVID-19 provincial and local public health and health system indicators, including:
- new ICU admissions and hospitalizations

number

- effective reproduction

- test positivity
- weekly cases incidence rates
- vaccination coverage rates
- It will be particularly important to monitor trends in indicators over the winter holidays and as students return to schools in January

Managing COVID-19 for the long term

- As the province manages COVID-19 for the long term, responses will be localized and tailored based on local context and conditions
- Local indicators will also inform any decision to apply additional measures to specific public health regions at the discretion of the local medical officer of health

Key principles:

- ongoing monitoring and testing
- infrastructure in place to manage outbreaks
- targeted, localized measures based on local context and conditions
- minimize disruption to business and individuals

Sample measures that may be implemented locally or regionally could include:

In the absence of concerning trends, begin to lift vaccine certificate requirements, starting with the lowest risk settings, as follows:

- reintroduce capacity limits and/or physical distancing requirements (percent and/or hard caps)
- add settings where proof of vaccination is required
- reduce gathering limits
- apply public health and workplace safety measures in specific settings where transmission is occurring
- recommend or require work from home, where possible