



LIFESAVING SOCIETY

The Lifeguarding Experts

GOOD NEWS: MINISTRY OF HEALTH ESTABLISHES STAGE 3 REOPENING PLANS FOR IN-PERSON TEACHING AND INSTRUCTION

Ontario

Toronto, July 31, 2020 – The Ontario Ministry of Health, Environmental Health Policy and Programs, Health Protection & Surveillance Policy and Programs Branch has affirmed its Stage 3 reopening plans to the Lifesaving Society as it pertains to in-person teaching and instruction, and the news for the Society’s affiliates and swim licensees is positive. The Ministry reports:

“For health units that are in stage 3 of reopening, there are specific requirements that apply to persons responsible for a business or place that is open and that provides in-person teaching or instruction. Specifically, the person responsible for the business or place that is open and that provides in-person teaching or instruction must ensure that every instructional space:

- is operated to enable students to maintain a physical distance of at least two metres from every other person in the instructional space, **except where necessary for teaching and instruction that cannot be effectively provided if physical distancing is maintained;**
- limits the total number of students permitted to be in each instructional space at any one time to the number that can maintain a physical distance of at least two metres from every other person in the business or place, and in any event cannot exceed, (i) 50 persons, if the instructional space is indoors, or (ii) 100 persons, if the instructional space is outdoors (please see section 5 of Schedule 1 of Ontario Regulation 364/20 made under the EMCPA).”

Start programming

Learn to swim and lifesaving instruction are fundamental to decreasing drownings and play an important role in keeping our communities safe. We encourage Lifesaving Society affiliates to begin scheduling courses knowing they have the support and resources of the Society behind them.

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Preparing to reopen

We urge all facility owners, operators and Lifesaving Society leadership personnel to refer to the Society's [Guide to Reopening Pools and Waterfronts](#), which provides guidelines for adapting their facility's operation to mitigate the risk to staff and public health posed by COVID-19. The *Guide to Reopening Pools and Waterfronts* does not replace or supersede local, provincial/territorial or federal legislation or regulations or directives from the Ministry of Health and Medical Officer of Health.

We look forward to working with our affiliates on reopening their pools. We will continue to share best practices and resources to assist. [Additional Lifesaving Society COVID-19 resources are located here.](#)

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