



LIFESAVING SOCIETY®

*The Lifeguarding Experts*

## Ontario's Roadmap to Reopen – Aquatic Facilities

Updated September 16, 2021

The Province of Ontario has released [regulations](#) and [guidance](#) for businesses and organizations to support them in implementing [proof of vaccination requirements](#), which take effect on September 22, 2021. Requiring proof of vaccination for individuals aged 12 and over will help increase vaccination rates, protect individuals in higher-risk indoor settings, and keep businesses open.

Ontario's exit from the Roadmap to Reopen is paused until further notice. The province [remains in Step 3](#). Public health and workplace safety measures continue to apply, including maintaining physical distance, limiting capacity, practicing hand hygiene, and wearing masks in indoor spaces and whenever physical distancing is a challenge.

Ontario [Regulation 364/20](#) under the Reopening Ontario Act applies to Step 3 as well as to the future Roadmap Exit Step. Emergency Order Amendments are first posted here: [www.ontario.ca/page/emergency-information](http://www.ontario.ca/page/emergency-information)

### **Proof of Vaccination**

Effective 12:01 a.m. on September 22, 2021, Ontario will require patrons to provide proof of identification and of being fully vaccinated against Covid-19 to access certain businesses and settings. The [Proof of Vaccination Guidance for Businesses and Organizations under the Reopening Ontario Act](#) provides information for businesses and organizations implementing this requirement.

Patrons will need to be [fully vaccinated](#), which typically means the person received their final dose of the Covid-19 vaccine at least 14 days before providing the proof of being fully vaccinated.

Ontarians can print or download their vaccination receipt from the [provincial booking portal](#). Those who need support obtaining a copy of their vaccination receipt including those who do not have access to a computer or printer can call the Provincial Vaccine Contact Centre at 1-833-943-3900.

Ontario is developing an enhanced vaccine certificate with a unique QR code to make it safer, more secure and convenient to show that you have been vaccinated, when required to do so. The enhanced vaccine certificate and verification app will be available by October 22, 2021. Ontario's proof of vaccination guidance will be updated to reflect the new processes.

### **Which settings will require proof of vaccination to enter?**

This requirement focuses on indoor [higher-risk public settings](#). For aquatic operators these include:

- Indoor areas of facilities used for sports and recreational fitness activities
  - Pools & waterparks
  - Gyms & fitness centres
  - Personal fitness training (including aqua fitness)
  - Recreation centres & sports facilities
  - Sports leagues & sporting events
  - Indoor areas of facilities where spectators watch events
  
- Indoor areas of restaurants, bars and other food and drink establishments
  - Excludes outdoor areas (i.e., outdoor patios except when associated with a dance facility/nightclub)
  - Excludes delivery and takeout
  
- Indoor areas of meeting and event spaces, concert venues, theatres, cinemas

### **Are there any exemptions to this regulation?**

Exemptions include but are not limited to children under age 12, youth under age 18 participating in indoor organized sport, including training, practices, games and competitions, and patrons with a medical exemption will be permitted entry without proof of vaccination. Other limited exemptions apply in meeting and event spaces (e.g., day camp, child care, social services, court services, government services).

### **What can I show as proof of vaccination?**

Individuals aged 12 and over, unless otherwise exempted, can provide either a paper or digital copy of their vaccination receipt that demonstrates they are fully vaccinated. It must include their name, date of vaccination and product name (brand of vaccine) at the time of vaccination. A vaccination receipt includes any of the following:

- An Ontario vaccination receipt from a vaccine clinic when you received your dose (paper copy).
- A vaccination receipt signed by an Indigenous Health Provider.
- An Ontario Ministry of Health vaccination receipt received by email following your appointment (digital or printed paper copy).

Vaccination receipts may be downloaded from Ontario's provincial booking portal or by calling the Provincial Vaccine Contact Centre at 1-833-943-3900 (digital or printed paper copy).

A vaccination receipt from another jurisdiction that shows the holder is fully vaccinated against Covid-19.

You must also validate that the vaccine receipt is yours by providing identification issued by an institution or public body that includes your name and date of birth.

### **What public health and workplace safety measures remain in effect?**

Ontario's exit from the Roadmap to Reopen is paused until further notice. The province remains in Step 3 of the Roadmap. The measures applied provincially to aquatic facilities are as follows: :

- Indoor and outdoor pools, splash pads, spray pads, whirlpools, wading pools and waterslides may open in accordance with [Ontario Regulation 565](#) and with capacity limited to ensure 2 m physical distancing.
  - Indoor pools are limited to 50% capacity. Occupancy limits must be posted on signage.
  - Lane and recreational swims are permitted both indoors and outdoors.
  - Wave pools may operate indoors and outdoors.
  - Indoor saunas, steam rooms, fitness centres and bathhouses may open with restrictions.
- Indoor and outdoor community centres and multi-purpose facilities may open.
  - Indoor facilities are limited to 50% capacity. Occupancy limits must be posted on signage.
- Indoor and outdoor waterparks may open with capacity limited to ensure 2 m physical distancing.
  - Indoor waterparks or indoor areas of outdoor parks are limited to 50% capacity.
  - Outdoor waterparks, attractions and areas are limited to 75% capacity.
  - Occupancy limits must be posted on signage.
  - Rides/attractions must be modified to ensure 2 m physical distancing.
  - Masks are required indoors and on rides, except on water rides, waterslides or in pools.
  - Outdoor seated events and any indoor activities require reservation/appointment.
- Camps open
  - Day camps open based on guidance from the Ontario Chief Medical Officer of Health.
  - Overnight camps open in accordance with Ontario Regulation 503/17 and based on guidance from the Ontario Chief Medical Officer of Health.

- Aquatic sports
  - Outdoor sports leagues and aquatic sports are permitted. Team sports or games should be modified to avoid personal contact and maintain physical distancing as much as possible.
  - Training for Olympic athletes and identified professional/elite amateur athletes is permitted.
  - Operators must ensure that any aquatic sports league or event has prepared a safety plan, prior to allowing any participants to practice or play the sport in the facility.
- Training and instruction
  - Indoor and outdoor aqua fitness classes are permitted, with restrictions including 2 m physical distancing.
    - Indoor aqua fitness classes are limited to 50% capacity.
  - Swimming lessons are permitted, both indoors and outdoors.
    - Indoor lessons are limited to 50% capacity.
    - Outdoor lessons are limited to 75% capacity.
    - The space for any in-person teaching or instruction must be operated to enable students to maintain a physical distance of at least 2 m from every other person in the space, except where necessary for teaching and instruction that cannot be effectively provided if physical distancing is maintained.
  - Lifeguard training and certifications: health and safety training is permitted both indoors and outdoors and is exempt from the % capacity limits.
    - The space for any in-person teaching or instruction must be operated to enable students to maintain a physical distance of at least 2 m from every other person in the space, except where necessary for teaching and instruction that cannot be effectively provided if physical distancing is maintained.
- Spectators are permitted. Spectator areas must be modified to ensure 2 m physical distancing and spectators must wear masks in indoor areas or outdoors if unable to maintain physical distancing.
  - Occupancy limits must be posted on signage.
  - 50% spectator/seating capacity indoors up to a max of 1,000 persons.
  - 75% spectator/seating capacity outdoors up to a max of 5,000 persons (or 15,000 in the case of a designated seating area).
  - Children/Youth should be permitted at least one parent/guardian.

- Admission bather screening and safety plans continue to be required, including hand hygiene and sanitization practices.
- Masking for patrons and employees is still required
  - The Lifesaving Society continues to recommend personal protective equipment for lifeguards and staff performing first aid, including wearing a mask, protective eyewear and gloves.

Lifesaving Society Ontario  
400 Consumers Rd., Toronto, Ontario, M2J 1P8  
Tel: 416-490-8844 Fax: 416-490-8766  
Email: [experts@lifeguarding.com](mailto:experts@lifeguarding.com)  
[lifesavingsociety.com](http://lifesavingsociety.com)