The Province of Ontario has announced its plan to continue to ease public health measures. Ontario will move all areas of the province to the Roadmap Exit Step on March 1, 2022. At that time, capacity limits and mandatory proof of vaccination requirements will be lifted. Mask wearing, screening and disinfection requirements remain in effect.

Local and regional responses by public health units may be deployed based on local context and conditions. Operators should continue to monitor provincial and local guidance as they update their reopening and safety plans.

The Plan to Safely Reopen Ontario follows the existing regulations under the Reopening Ontario Act:

- Ontario Regulation 364/20 applies to Modified Step 3 (Jan. 31, Feb. 17)
- Ontario Regulation 364/20 applies to Roadmap Exit Step (Mar. 1)
- Emergency Order Amendments are first posted here: www.ontario.ca/page/emergency-information

Effective March 1, 2022

- All pools/aquatic facilities open.
- No capacity limits in all indoor and outdoor public settings.
- No proof of vaccination requirement for all settings, with businesses being allowed to implement them voluntarily.
- Other protective measures, such as mask requirements and passive screening of patrons, remain in place.
- Public health units can deploy local and regional responses based on local health indicators.
## Plan to Safely Reopen Ontario – Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>February 17, 2022</th>
<th>March 1, 2022</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Outdoor pools</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No capacity limits</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indoor pools</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No capacity limits</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aquatic sports</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swimming lessons</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No capacity limits</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Certifications (H&amp;S)</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No capacity limits</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aqua fitness</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No capacity limits</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waterparks</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No capacity limits</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waterslides and diving</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No capacity limits</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change rooms</td>
<td>Open washrooms, showers, lockers</td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No capacity limits</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amenities</td>
<td>Whirlpools, saunas, steam rooms</td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No capacity limits</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spectators</td>
<td>50% capacity</td>
<td>Open – No capacity limits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camps</td>
<td>Open – Specific guidance</td>
<td>Open – Specific guidance</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

- All owners and operators of recreational water facilities have a responsibility to assess risks associated with their facility and operations and ensure that they mitigate these risks for their employees, volunteers, and attendees. Specific to Covid-19, owners and operators are responsible for implementing measures to reduce the risk of infection among all those who attend their facilities.

- Please note that based on local trends, public health units have issued local orders and instructions. Operators should review local guidance when updating their reopening and workplace safety plans and follow provincial regulations and local requirements.

- The Lifesaving Society has published the Guide to Reopening Pools and Waterfronts and other guidance documents. Please continue to check the Lifesaving Society website and local health units frequently for updates.

PROOF OF VACCINATION

The Province of Ontario relaxed mandatory proof of vaccination requirements as of March 1, 2022.

- Businesses may continue to require proof of vaccination voluntarily, including by using the enhanced vaccine certificate with QR code and the Verify Ontario App.
- Certain businesses and settings will have mandatory vaccination policies. For example, the Lifesaving Society Ontario’s Covid-19 vaccination and testing policy for staff, trainers and volunteers remains in effect.

Operators should review with their local facility and/or local public health unit, to see what changes are applicable to their situation.

SAFETY MEASURES FOR AQUATIC FACILITIES

What are the requirements for safety plans for aquatic facilities?

Operators must prepare, update, and make available a Covid-19 safety plan. A copy of the plan must be made available to any person for review upon request, and be posted where it would come to the attention of individuals working in or attending the business.

The safety plan must describe the measures and procedures businesses have implemented or will implement to reduce the transmission risk of Covid-19. This includes, but is not limited to:

- screening
- physical distancing
- masks or face coverings
• cleaning and disinfecting of surfaces and objects
• wearing of personal protective equipment
• preventing and controlling crowding

Operators of aquatic sports leagues and competitions must have a safety plan. National and provincial sport organizations provide helpful guidance outlining best practices for these activities.

What capacity limits and distancing requirements apply to aquatic facilities?

• As of March 1, 2022, regulatory capacity limits for Covid-19 have been relaxed. Operators must follow existing regulations, such as occupant load under the Ontario Fire Code and bather load under Ontario Regulation 565.
• In the absence of regulatory capacity limits or distancing requirements, operators must follow local public health advice and the measures outlined in their safety plan.

What are the rules on mask wearing?

• As of March 1, 2022, regulatory mask-wearing requirements remain in effect.
• Mask wearing for patrons and employees is required in indoor areas including spectator areas, and in outdoor areas when physical distancing cannot be maintained.
• Masks should be removed when “entering the water,” e.g., when entering the pool or shower.
• Masks may be removed when actively engaging in an athletic or fitness activity.
• Masks must be worn in the facility, on the indoor pool deck, and in the changerooms.
• Masks should be worn in queues (line-up) or waiting areas.
• Spectators must wear masks at all times (except when seated and actively eating/drinking).

What are the rules on personal protective equipment (PPE) for employees?

• As of March 1, 2022, certain regulatory PPE requirements have been relaxed.
• Workers must continue to wear masks in indoor public areas and if breaking 2 m physical distancing.
• Requirements for plexiglass barriers have been relaxed.
• The Lifesaving Society recommends personal protective equipment for lifeguards and staff who perform first aid as recommended by Public Health Ontario, including wearing a mask or respirator, protective eyewear, gloves and isolation gown as appropriate.
• Review your workplace guidelines or local public health unit guidance to determine which PPE to select and for what use.
What screening and contact tracing requirements are in effect?

- All businesses and organizations are required to screen employees for Covid-19 before they go to work or start their shift each day, whether or not they have been vaccinated.
- The person responsible for a sports facility must screen individuals who enter the facility for Covid-19, whether or not they have been vaccinated.
- Screening may be conducted by way of signage, interview, questionnaire, app, phone call, etc.
- There is no regulatory requirement to retain the name and contact information of every person who enter the facility for the purpose of contact tracing.

What isolation and testing requirements are in effect?

- The Province of Ontario provides updated guidance around isolation due to symptoms or exposure to Covid-19. Workers and patrons should follow provincial guidance and orders/instructions from their local public health unit.
- Provincial testing guidance has changed and PCR/molecular testing is only available in specific circumstances.
- Organizations can access free rapid tests for members of their workplace or organization.
- Individuals can access free rapid testing for at-home use at grocery and pharmacy locations in their community.

What are the requirements for cleaning and disinfection?

- Operators must follow the requirements of Ontario Regulation 565 in regards to safe water management, and the cleaning and disinfection of the pool deck and facility.
- Operators must ensure that equipment, washrooms, locker rooms, change rooms, showers and similar amenities that are accessible to the public are cleaned and disinfected as frequently as is necessary to maintain a sanitary condition. Often, this means cleaning and disinfecting equipment between individuals and cleaning and disinfecting high-touch surfaces at least twice per day.
- Operators should ensure that shower facilities, including warm water and soap, are available to bathers, as regulation requires that bathers shower prior to entering the pool deck.
- Operators should ensure hand washing / hand sanitizing stations are readily available within their facilities, for both employees and patrons. Signage should be installed promoting proper hand hygiene practices.
What is the guidance on indoor ventilation?

- The virus causing Covid-19 is known to spread through droplets and aerosols, which represent a risk particularly to people who are in enclosed spaces and indoor situations where people are in close proximity. Adequate ventilation can contribute to reducing the risk of Covid-19 transmission in indoor settings.
- Operators should review guidance on indoor ventilation and consult a heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) professional to determine if their ventilation system is operating optimally. Good ventilation includes avoiding recirculating air, increasing indoor/outdoor air exchange, air filtration and opening windows/doors where possible.
- Many of the measures in place to ensure good air quality in swimming pool environments are also effective in reducing the risk of Covid-19 transmission.

What about training for staff?

- Staff should be adequately trained on all measures to keep themselves and the public safe. Operational and emergency procedures should be practiced frequently as part of pre-season and in-service training.
- Operators should ensure that as procedures are updated, this information is effectively communicated to staff and patrons.
- The Society provides guidance for operators regarding in-person and virtual training on its Covid-19 resources page.

The Lifesaving Society provides these guidelines for aquatic operators based on its review of provincial requirements and best practices. Local municipalities and public health units may implement more stringent requirements. Operators are encouraged to consult their local public health unit or municipality and/or consult independent legal advice, as appropriate.

Please continue to check the Lifesaving Society website frequently for updates.

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