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Federal:

February 15, 2022 – The Government of Canada has announced the easing of certain COVID-19 border measures in light of Canada’s high vaccination rate and decreasing hospitalization rates. As of February 28, 2022, the following measures will come into effect:

- In order to meet pre-entry testing requirements, travellers entering Canada can provide a COVID-19 rapid antigen test result, taken the day prior to their scheduled flight or arrival at the land border or marine port of entry, OR a molecular test result, taken no more than 72 hours before their scheduled flight or arrival at the land border or marine port of entry.
 - The rapid antigen test cannot be taken at home, but rather authorized by the country in which it was purchased, and administered by a laboratory, healthcare entity, or telehealth service.
 - If a traveller is relying on a positive test result received in the previous 10 to 180 days to meet the pre-entry testing requirement, the traveller must provide a molecular test result.
- Fully vaccinated travellers arriving to Canada from any country will be subject to mandatory random on-arrival testing. Those selected for testing will no longer be required to quarantine while awaiting their result.
- Children under 12 years of age travelling with fully vaccinated adults will continue to be exempt from quarantine, however they will no longer be subject to any conditions limiting their activity (i.e. children will no longer be required to wait 14 days before attending school, camp, or daycare).
- Unvaccinated foreign nationals continue to be prohibited from entering Canada unless they meet one of the prescribed exemptions. Unvaccinated travellers who enter Canada will be required to test on arrival and at day 8, and quarantine for 14 days.
- The Government of Canada will no longer recommend avoiding travel for non-essential purposes and, effective February 28, 2022 at 4:00 p.m., international flights will be permitted to land at all remaining Canadian airports that are designated to receive international passenger flights.

December 17, 2021 – Canada is once again requiring all incoming travellers, regardless of trip length or location, to provide proof of a pre-arrival negative molecular COVID-19 test in order to enter the country, and is ending its travel ban on 10 African countries – effective December 21, 2021.

December 15, 2021 – The federal government reinstated its non-essential travel advisory, calling on Canadians to avoid international travel due to the rapid spread of the Omicron variant.

November 30, 2021 – The federal government banned entry to foreign travellers who have been to Nigeria, Malawi and Egypt in the last two weeks — adding to the list of African countries facing travel bans, like South Africa, Mozambique, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Lesotho and Eswatini, that were first announced on Nov. 26. Canadian citizens, regardless of their vaccination status or having had a previous history of testing positive for COVID-19, who have been in any of these 10 countries in the previous 14 days, will be subject to enhanced pre-entry and arrival testing, screening, and quarantine measures.

Moving forward, border testing surveillance will be adjusted based on the latest available evidence to further reduce the risk of importation of this variant. In the coming days, all fully vaccinated travellers arriving by air from departure points other than the United States will be subject to arrival testing. Fully vaccinated travellers will be required to quarantine while they await the results of their arrival test.

Unvaccinated travellers, with right of entry to Canada, will continue to be tested on arrival and day 8 and quarantine for 14 days. However, those arriving by air will now be required to stay in a designated quarantine facility or other suitable location while they await the result of their on arrival test.

November 19, 2021 – Health Canada has approved Pfizer’s COVID-19 vaccine for children ages 5 to 11. At the same time, the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) has released its recommendations for use of the pediatric COVID-19 vaccine for this age group.

October 21, 2021 – The Prime Minister announced today that, in collaboration with provinces and territories, a standardized Canadian COVID-19 proof of vaccination is now available to residents of Newfoundland and Labrador, Northwest Territories, Nova Scotia, Nunavut, Ontario, Quebec, Saskatchewan, and Yukon, and will be available in the other provinces soon. Each province's system is supposed to have a “common” look and feel, with the expectation that by next month all Canadians will have access to their vaccine credentials from their province or territory, as proof of vaccination will soon be needed in order to board a plane or train in this country.

Canada is also engaging with international partners to obtain recognition and acceptance abroad, so the proof can also be used to facilitate travel around the world. The proof of vaccination can also be used with ArriveCAN, the mobile app and website for travellers to submit mandatory information when arriving in Canada from other countries.

October 14, 2021 – Starting Nov. 8, the United States will be opening its land and sea border to non-essential fully vaccinated Canadian travellers for the first time since March 2020. While the Public Health Agency of Canada is still advising against non-essential international travel, the border reopening means that Canadians can drive into the U.S. to visit family, or take a day trip, something Canada has allowed fully vaccinated Americans to do since Aug. 9.

October 13, 2021 – The United States will lift restrictions at its land borders with Canada and Mexico for fully vaccinated foreign nationals in early November, ending historic curbs on non-essential travelers in place since March 2020 to address the COVID-19 pandemic.

October 6, 2021 – Anyone who wants to board a plane or train in Canada will have to prove they're vaccinated by Oct. 30 with "limited exemptions," the federal government has announced. There will be a short period of time where proof of a negative COVID-19 test will be acceptable to board, though by the end of November that option will no longer be available. This policy will apply to any passenger ages 12 and older, as they are eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccines authorized by Health Canada.

The federal government is also continuing to work with the provinces and territories, to develop a pan-Canadian proof of vaccination for Canadians to use for international travel. The standardized, pan-Canadian proof of vaccination is a factual document that shows a traveller has been vaccinated against COVID-19. It is expected to have a common look and include the holder's COVID-19 vaccination history, such as the number of doses, vaccine type(s), and date and place where doses were administered. This standardization will help both foreign and Canadian border officials to recognize it as a reliable Canadian document and to assess whether the traveller meets their country's health and entry requirements,

July 19, 2021 - Starting August 9, 2021, Canada plans to begin allowing entry to American citizens and permanent residents, who are currently residing in the United States, and have been fully vaccinated at least 14 days prior to entering Canada for non-essential travel. This preliminary step allows for the Government of Canada to fully operationalize the adjusted border measures ahead of September 7, 2021, and recognizes the many close ties between Canadians and Americans. On September 7, 2021, the Government intends to open Canada's borders to any fully vaccinated travellers who have completed the full course of vaccination with a Government of Canada-accepted vaccine at least 14 days prior to entering Canada and who meet specific entry requirements.

July 4, 2021 – Effective Monday, fully vaccinated Canadians and permanent residents -- those who have had a full course of a COVID-19 vaccine approved for use in Canada -- will be able to skip the 14-day quarantine. Eligible air travellers will also be exempt from the requirement that they spend their first three days in Canada in a government-approved hotel. Travellers must use the ArriveCAN app or web portal prior to departure to log their vaccination details, as well as the results of a negative COVID-19 test that's less than three days old. The mutual travel restrictions between Canada and the United States -- which prohibit all discretionary travel between the two countries while continuing to allow the movement of trade, essential workers and international students -- are due to expire July 21.

June 25, 2021 – The federal government has release guidelines of what fully vaccinated Canadians can and can't do safely together. Please see attached [infographic](#).

June 18, 2021 – the Federal government announced that its restrictions on the non-essential international travel would remain in place at the Canada-US boarder until July 21, 2021.

June 1, 2021 – the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) provided guidance on the interchangeability of COVID-19 vaccines for first and second doses. NACI confirmed the safety and effectiveness of interchanging vaccines and reaffirmed the recommendation to prioritize second doses for those at highest risk of severe illness and death. More specifically, NACI advises people who received a first dose of the AstraZeneca COVISHIELD vaccine may safely receive either the same vaccine or an mRNA vaccine for their second dose. Additionally, people who received a first dose of one type of mRNA vaccine may safely receive another mRNA vaccine for their second dose.

May 7, 2021 – The Prime Minister announced additional funding for the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator. This \$375 million contribution will help develop, produce, and distribute diagnostics, therapeutics, and vaccines to low-and-middle-income countries.

March 5, 2021 - Health Canada authorized the Janssen COVID-19 vaccine – a single-dose vaccine. It can be stored and transported at regular refrigerated temperatures, from 2° to 8° Celsius, which makes it easier to distribute across the country. Canada has an agreement with Johnson & Johnson for 10 million doses of this Janssen vaccine between now and September. There are now four safe and effective vaccines approved by independent regulators in Canada.

February 26, 2021 – Health Canada authorized the AstraZeneca-Oxford COVID-19 vaccine - CoviShield. We now have a third safe and effective vaccine independently approved by health experts in Canada.

February 12, 2021 - The Government of Canada announced further testing and quarantine requirements for international travellers arriving to Canada's air and land ports of entry. These new measures will help prevent variants of concern from reaccelerating the pandemic and making it more difficult to contain.

- **For travellers arriving to Canada by land, as of February 15, 2021**, all travellers, with some exceptions, will be required to provide proof of a negative COVID-19 molecular test result taken in the United States within 72 hours of pre-arrival. In addition, as of February 22, 2021, travellers entering Canada at the land border will be required to take a COVID-19 molecular test on arrival as well as toward the end of their 14-day quarantine.
- **All travellers arriving to Canada by air, as of February 22, 2021**, with some exceptions, will be required to take a COVID-19 molecular test when they arrive in Canada before exiting the airport, and another toward the end of their 14-day quarantine period. With limited exceptions, air travellers, will also be required to reserve, prior to departure to Canada, a 3-night stay in a government-authorized hotel. Travellers will be able to book their government-authorized stay starting February 18, 2021. These new measures are in addition to existing mandatory pre-boarding and health requirements for air travellers.
- Finally, at the same time on **February 22, 2021**, all travellers, whether arriving by land or air will be required to submit their travel and contact information, including a suitable quarantine plan, electronically via ArriveCAN before crossing the border or boarding a flight.

The Government of Canada continues to strongly advise Canadians to cancel or postpone any non-essential travel, including vacation plans, outside Canada. Foreign nationals should likewise postpone or cancel travel plans to Canada. Now is not the time to travel.

February 9, 2021 - Starting next Monday, February 15th, when you return to Canada through a land border you'll need to show a 72-hour PCR test, just like non-essential air travellers.

The federal government is providing one year without interest on certain 2020 tax debt, giving people more flexibility to repay amounts owing from last year. If an individual received federal emergency benefits – like the CERB – and made up to \$75,000 in taxable income, you will not have to pay interest on 2020 tax debt until April of next year. For people who accessed CERB based on their gross income instead of their net income, as long as you meet the other eligibility criteria, you will not have to return those CERB payments.

January 30, 2021 - Chief Public Health Officer Dr. Theresa Tam is warning provinces against easing stringent public health measures. Even though daily cases of the novel coronavirus are trending down, it's still too soon to lift lockdowns and ease other protective measures if the country hopes to bring the pandemic under control. With still elevated daily case counts and high rates of infection across all age

groups, the risk remains that trends could reverse quickly, and some areas of the country are seeing increased activity.

January 29, 2021 – The Prime Minister announced new rules on international travel, in addition to the multi-layered approach on COVID-19 already in place. The government and Canada's airlines have agreed to suspend all flights to and from Mexico and Caribbean countries until April 30, 2021. This will be in effect as of January 31, 2021. Further, effective midnight (11:59 PM EST) February 3, 2021, in addition to proof of a negative pre-departure test, Transport Canada will expand the existing international flight restrictions which funnel scheduled international commercial passenger flights into four Canadian airports: Montréal-Trudeau International Airport, Toronto Pearson International Airport, Calgary International Airport, and Vancouver International Airport. The new restrictions will include scheduled commercial passenger flights arriving from the United States, Mexico, Central America, the Caribbean and South America, which were exempted from the previous restriction. Private/Business and charter flights from all countries will also be required to land at the four airports.

As soon as possible in the coming weeks, all air travellers arriving in Canada, with very limited exceptions, must reserve a room in a Government of Canada-approved hotel for three nights at their own cost, and take a COVID-19 molecular test on arrival at their own cost. More details will be available in the coming days. Travellers are still required to complete a mandatory 14-day quarantine.

The Government of Canada will introduce a 72-hour pre-arrival testing requirement (molecular test) for travellers seeking entry in land mode, with limited exceptions such as commercial truckers. In addition, we continue to collaborate with partners in the United States to strengthen our border measures and keep our countries safe.

January 26, 2021 – The Prime Minister advised Canadians again to avoid all non-essential travel, whether it's abroad or to another province. To cancel vacation plans down south.

January 22, 2021 – The Prime Minister, in his address today, expressed the importance of not traveling at this time. No one should be taking a vacation abroad right now. If you have a trip planned – cancel it. And do not book a trip for spring break. It is obvious we should avoid trips south and out of the country. Remember, across the country people are being told to stay home. So, if you were thinking of travelling across the country for spring break, now's not the time. We must get through to the spring and mass vaccinations in the best shape possible. The travel and border measures implemented by Canada are some of the strictest in the world. They include mandatory testing before returning to the country – and the United States is now following our lead – as well as a mandatory two-week quarantine.

January 12, 2021 - The COVID-19 travel restrictions in place at the Canada-U.S. land border are being extended another month and will now remain in effect until February 21, 2021.

January 4, 2021 - The Government of Canada has announced that as of January 7, 2021, all air travellers over age five (including Canadians and Permanent Residents) will be required to provide a negative COVID-19 test result prior to entering Canada. Specifically, air travellers must provide a negative polymerase chain reaction ("PCR") test result, taken within the 72-hour period before boarding a flight to Canada. This new entry requirement is an addition to the current entry requirements which include:

- Submitting an ArriveCan application via the app/website prior to boarding;
- Using the ArriveCan application post-arrival for mandatory reporting; and
- Remaining in quarantine for at least 14 days upon arrival to Canada.

Travellers unable to take a PCR test before flying will not be able to fly to Canada. Rather, they will need to delay their trip until they can provide a negative test result. The only exception is if the traveller can demonstrate that they are travelling from a country where PCR testing is not available. In this instance, they may be able to board their flight, but once in Canada will be immediately directed to federally approved quarantine facilities where they will remain for the duration of their 14-day quarantine.

December 23, 2020 - Health Canada has completed their review of the Moderna vaccine and found it to be safe and effective. We now have the green light to start rolling it out across the country.

The federal government has extended the temporary suspension of passenger flights from the U.K. to Canada for another two weeks—until January 6—to prevent this new variant of COVID-19 from spreading in Canada.

December 11, 2020 - The COVID-19 travel restrictions in place at the Canada-U.S. land border are being extended another month and will now remain in effect until Jan. 21, 2021.

December 9, 2020 - Health Canada has approved the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine for use in this country. It is a critical moment in Canada's fight against the novel coronavirus, as it is the first vaccine to receive the green light.

December 7, 2020 - Canada has secured an agreement with Pfizer to begin early delivery of doses of their vaccine candidate. Canada is now contracted to receive up to 249,000 of the initial doses of Pfizer-BioNTech's COVID-19 vaccine in the month of December. Pending Health Canada approval, the first shipment of doses is tracking for delivery next week. Shipments will continue to arrive into 2021, with millions of doses on the way. This will move Canada forward on the timeline of vaccine rollout and is a positive development in getting Canadians protected as soon as possible. Pfizer, the Public Health Agency of Canada, and the provinces and territories, are working together to finalize preparations at the first 14 vaccination sites this week. The regulatory process is ongoing and experts are working around the clock. Canada also has agreements with six other vaccine candidates, making the range of potential vaccines the broadest and most diverse in the world. In addition to Pfizer-BioNTech, there are also Moderna, AstraZeneca-Oxford, and Johnson & Johnson who have already submitted their vaccine candidates to Health Canada. The government is working hard to ensure that Canadians have access to a safe and secure vaccine as soon as possible, as soon as the doses are ready.

November 30, 2020 - The federal government has unveiled a new round of financial supports to respond to the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic in Canada. The economic update includes a series of new measures building on the federal government's ongoing response which has included a suite of emergency response aid programs, the support for local community organizations on the front lines, and the \$19.9-billion safe restart package sent to provinces.

The federal government has announced plans to spend more on COVID-19 testing, vaccines, self-isolation support, and procuring personal protective equipment, reduce the cost of face shields and face masks for Canadians by removing sales taxes, and improve ventilation in public buildings. Some specific announcements are highlighted below:

- The government is proposing to increase the maximum employer wage subsidy rate to 75 per cent for the period beginning December 20, 2020 and to extend this rate until March 13, 2021, to provide greater certainty to employers. The government will continue to monitor health and economic conditions to determine details for subsequent periods.

- To provide greater certainty to businesses and other organizations, the government is proposing to extend the current subsidy rates of the Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy for an additional three periods. This means a base subsidy rate of up to 65 per cent will be available on eligible expenses until March 13, 2021. This would ensure that businesses and other organizations continue to have the support they need through the second wave of the pandemic and the winter.
- To simplify the process for both taxpayers and businesses, the CRA will allow employees working from home in 2020 due to COVID-19 with modest expenses to claim up to \$400, based on the amount of time working from home, without the need to track detailed expenses, and will generally not request that people provide a signed form from their employers. This measure will help taxpayers access deductions they are entitled to receive and simplify the tax filing process. Further detail will be communicated by the CRA in the coming weeks.

Further details on this financial update can be found here: <https://www.budget.gc.ca/fes-eea/2020/report-rapport/toc-tdm-en.html>

November 20, 2020 – The Prime Minister announced that the Canada USA boarder closure has been extended to Dec 21, 2020.

November 19, 2020 - Starting November 21, 2020, all travellers (including Canadian citizens and permanent residents), whose destination is Canada, are required to provide contact and quarantine information before and after entering Canada through ArriveCAN. This information is mandatory as part of Canada's efforts to prevent the importation and reduce the spread of COVID-19.

Before Arriving to Canada - All travellers entering Canada by air must submit the following information to ArriveCAN, either by downloading the ArriveCAN mobile app or submitting the information [online](#):

- Contact information (name, date of birth, e-mail address, phone number and passport details);
- Travel details (date of arrival, flight number/airline/airport or port of entry) and purpose of travel (work, study, family reunification, exempt travel);
- COVID-19 symptom self-assessment; and
- Quarantine plan (unless exempted).

If the information is not submitted prior to boarding, air travellers may face delays at the border due to additional questioning from public health authorities. In addition, they may face an enforcement action ranging from a warning to a \$1,000 fine. Those travelling to Canada by land or sea are strongly encouraged to submit travel information **before** their arrival using ArriveCAN. Submitting this information in advance will speed up processing at the port of entry and limit physical contact with border and public health officials. Travellers entering Canada who are or may be exempt from quarantine must still use the ArriveCAN app or website to submit their contact information, travel details and advise if they are experiencing any symptoms. On entry to Canada, border officers will request a copy of the submission receipt for verification.

After Entering Canada - Starting November 21, 2020, all travellers who have entered Canada by air, land or sea (unless exempted from mandatory quarantine/isolation requirements) must:

- Confirm within 48 hours of arrival that they have reached the quarantine/isolation location that was provided; and
- Complete COVID-19 symptom self-assessments on a daily basis during the quarantine period.

This information can be provided through the ArriveCAN app or website (if the traveller initially submitted their information digitally) or by calling 1-833-641-0343. If the traveller does not provide the

required follow-up information, they may be contacted by public health authorities and enforcement for non-compliance may be taken.

November 5, 2020 - The Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) now says the novel coronavirus can be transmitted through small airborne droplets. PHAC updated its virus transmission guidance as part of a larger overhaul of COVID-19 advice that also included a new recommendation that all face masks should contain three layers of material. According to the new guidance, the droplets and aerosols can infect a person by being inhaled or by otherwise coming into contact with the mouth, nose or eyes. Contact with contaminated surfaces, followed by touching the face without first handwashing, remains in the guidance as another potential method of transmission. "This is why we have been advising Canadians to try to avoid the three Cs – closed spaces with [poor] ventilation, crowded places with large numbers of people gathered and close contact situations where you can't maintain physical distancing," Dr. Theresa Tam said. Canada's new wording around aerosols is very similar to that of the World Health Organization, which first recognized aerosol transmission in July.

November 3, 2020 - The Public Health Agency of Canada has updated its recommendations on non-medical face masks with the country's top doctor now suggesting Canadians wear coverings that are made of three layers including a filter. Canada's Chief Public Health Officer Dr. Theresa Tam said that masks with a filter will help trap small infectious particles and further protect against COVID-19. She said the degree of protection varies based on the construction, materials, and particularly the fit of non-medical masks. Tam stressed that Canadians currently using two-layered masks do not need to throw them in the trash but should instead purchase a disposable filter to insert between the layers. According to the Public Health Agency of Canada, a non-medical mask should be made of at least three layers, two of which should be tightly woven material fabric, such as cotton or linen. The third, middle layer should be a filter-type fabric, such as non-woven polypropylene fabric. Reusable masks with a non-woven filter layer already built in should be washed daily and can be washed multiple times. Those with disposable filters should be changed daily or as directed by the manufacturer, according to the updated guidelines.

October 19, 2020 - The COVID-19 travel restrictions in place at the Canada-U.S. land border will remain in effect until Nov. 21 at least. The current agreement on the U.S.-Canada border closure to non-essential travel was first imposed in March and has been renewed every month since. Tourists and cross-border visits remain prohibited, although trade and commerce are exempted as are certain family members and loved ones who can make a case on compassionate grounds to be allowed into Canada.

October 9, 2020 - The Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister, the Honourable Chrystia Freeland, announced the government's intention to introduce new, targeted supports to help hard-hit businesses and other organizations experiencing a drop in revenue. The government plans to introduce legislation to provide support that would help these businesses safely get through the second wave of the virus and the winter, cover costs so they can continue to serve their communities, and be positioned for a strong recovery, including:

- The new Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy, which would provide simple and easy-to-access rent and mortgage support until June 2021 for qualifying organizations affected by COVID-19. The rent subsidy would be provided directly to tenants, while also providing support to property owners. The new rent subsidy would support businesses, charities, and non-profits that have suffered a revenue drop, by subsidizing a percentage of their expenses, on a sliding scale, up to a maximum of 65 per cent of eligible expenses until December 19, 2020. Organizations would be able to make claims retroactively for the period that began September 27 and ends October 24, 2020.

- A top-up Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy of 25 per cent for organizations temporarily shut down by a mandatory public health order issued by a qualifying public health authority, in addition to the 65 per cent subsidy. This follows a commitment in the Speech from the Throne to provide direct financial support to businesses temporarily shut down as a result of a local public health decision.
- The extension of the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy until June 2021, which would continue to protect jobs by helping businesses keep employees on the payroll and encouraging employers to re-hire their workers. The subsidy would remain at the current subsidy rate of up to a maximum of 65 per cent of eligible wages until December 19, 2020. This measure is part of the government's commitment to create over 1 million jobs and restore employment to the level it was before the pandemic.
- An expanded Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA), which would enable businesses, and not-for-profits eligible for CEBA loans—and that continue to be seriously impacted by the pandemic—to access an interest-free loan of up to \$20,000, in addition to the original CEBA loan of \$40,000. Half of this additional financing would be forgivable if repaid by December 31, 2022. Additionally, the application deadline for CEBA is being extended to December 31, 2020. Further details, including the launch date and application process will be announced in the coming days. An attestation of the impact of COVID-19 on the business will be required to access the additional financing.

October 1, 2020 - The Prime Minister announced \$10 billion in new major infrastructure initiatives to create jobs and economic growth. The Canada Infrastructure Bank's (CIB) Growth Plan will help Canadians get back to work and is expected to create approximately 60,000 jobs across the country. The three-year plan will connect more households and small businesses to high-speed Internet, strengthen Canadian agriculture, and help build a low-carbon economy.

The Growth Plan will invest in five major initiatives:

- \$2.5 billion for clean power to support renewable generation and storage and to transmit clean electricity between provinces, territories, and regions, including to northern and Indigenous communities.
- \$2 billion to connect approximately 750,000 homes and small businesses to broadband in underserved communities, so Canadians can better participate in the digital economy.
- \$2 billion to invest in large-scale building retrofits to increase energy efficiency and help make communities more sustainable.
- \$1.5 billion for agriculture irrigation projects to help the agriculture sector enhance production, strengthen Canada's food security, and expand export opportunities.
- \$1.5 billion to accelerate the adoption of zero-emission buses and charging infrastructure so Canadians can have cleaner commutes.

To accelerate the delivery of projects in which the CIB intends to invest, it will also allocate \$500 million for project development and early construction works.

September 30, 2020 – The House of Commons has unanimously passed legislation authorizing new benefits for workers left jobless or underemployed by the COVID-19 pandemic. The new benefits have changed slightly since first announced:

1. Canada Recovery Benefit - The CRB would provide \$500 per week for up to 26 weeks for workers who have stopped working or had their income reduced by at least 50% due to COVID-19, and who are not eligible for Employment Insurance (EI).

2. Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit - The CRSB would provide \$500 per week for up to a maximum of two weeks, for workers who are unable to work because they contracted COVID-19; self-isolated for reasons related to COVID-19; or have underlying conditions that would make them more susceptible to COVID-19.
3. Canada Recovery Caregiving Benefit - The CRCB would provide \$500 per week, for up to 26 weeks per household to eligible workers unable to work because they must care for a child under the age of 12 or family member because they are unable to attend their schools, day-cares or facilities due to COVID-19.

Full details of these benefits can be found on the [COVID-19 Economic Response Plan](#) website.

August 26, 2020 – The Prime Minister announced up to \$2 billion in support for provinces and territories through the Safe Return to Class Fund. This will provide the complementary funding they need, as they work alongside local school boards to ensure the safety of students and staff members throughout the school year. For example, the Fund will help provinces and territories by supporting adapted learning spaces, improved air ventilation, increased hand sanitation and hygiene, and purchases of personal protective equipment and cleaning supplies.

August 20, 2020 - The federal government is extending the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) into September, before transitioning the millions of people who are still claiming CERB onto a revamped Employment Insurance program starting Sept. 27. The EI system itself is getting a facelift, opening up the criteria for the next year to make it so that Canadians with 120 insurable hours—which equates to 3.5 weeks of work in the last 52 weeks—across Canada can apply and receive a minimum payment of \$400 per week, and a maximum of \$573 per week, depending on past earnings. The reworked EI can be claimed for between 26 and 45 weeks, depending on time worked prior.

In addition, the federal government is launching three new benefits meant to target specific reasons why Canadians may be out of work or in need of financial aid. These will also come into effect on Sept. 27. These benefits are also taxable, meaning the tax will be deducted from the payments.

1. Canada Recovery Benefit - available for 26 weeks to workers who are self-employed, gig or contract workers, or otherwise not EI eligible but still cannot return to work. To qualify for this \$400-a-week program, Canadians must be looking for work and had stopped working or had their income reduced due to COVID-19. Workers will need to repay \$0.50 of every dollar earned above an annual net income of \$38,000 through their income tax return.
2. Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit - for those who don't already have paid sick leave through their employer, to make it easier for people to stay home from work when they are sick or have to self-isolate due to COVID-19, without worrying about their income. This benefit will provide \$500 per week, for up to two weeks, which remains the current time frame required for Coronavirus isolation. It cannot be claimed if the employee has paid sick leave through their workplace.
3. Canada Recovery Caregiving Benefit - for instances where someone needs to stay home to care for a loved one such as a child under the age of 12, a family member with a disability, or a dependent because schools, daycares, or other care facilities are closed due to the pandemic, or because a medical professional has deemed them to be at high-risk of severe illness if they were

to contract COVID-19. This program offers up to 26 weeks per household, with just one adult per household able to claim the program at a time and provides \$500 a week. It can only be used when facilities are closed and not because people “prefer” to keep their loved ones at home.

August 14, 2020 - Canadian and U.S. officials have agreed to keep the border between the two countries closed to non-essential travel for another month. The current extension of the cross-border agreement expires on August 21, though as the spread of COVID-19 continues in both countries, the restrictions on recreational travel will remain in place until at least Sept. 21. The agreement, as it stands, exempts the flow of trade and commerce, as well as temporary foreign workers and vital health-care workers such as nurses who live and work on opposite sides of the border. Tourists and cross-border visits remain prohibited. As of June 9, foreign nationals who are immediate family members of either Canadian citizens or permanent residents can enter Canada to be reunited, under a limited exemption to the current border restrictions. This has allowed both foreign and cross-border Canada-U.S. families to reunite under certain stipulations.

August 13, 2020 - The federal government is offering \$31 million to help communities find ways to adapt to the realities of the COVID-19 pandemic. The money could be used for everything from pop-up bike paths to art installations to apps to support local markets -- efforts to improve quality of life as people live through the pandemic, said Infrastructure Minister Catherine McKenna. The new program, the Canada Healthy Communities Initiative, is aimed at non-governmental organizations that will work with municipalities and other groups to identify projects over the next two years.

August 11, 2020 - Canadians boarding a flight without a mask will now be forced to provide medical proof that they can't wear one, per a revised federal travel order. Non-medical masks have been mandatory on flights since April 20. But until last week passengers could say they have “breathing difficulties unrelated to COVID-19” as a reason for not wearing a mask. That's no longer the case, under an updated Transport Canada order issued on Friday that states a medical certificate will need to be shown that shows the traveller is unable to wear a mask for a medical reason.

July 17, 2020 - the Government of Canada announced proposed changes to the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS). The aim of the proposed changes is to broaden the reach of the program and provide better targeted support so that more workers can return to their jobs quickly as the economy restarts. The proposed changes loosen eligibility requirements and allow employers to receive wage subsidy amounts in proportion to any revenue loss. The proposed changes in the Government's draft legislative proposals would:

- allow the extension of the CEWS until December 19, 2020, including redesigned program details until November 21, 2020
- make the subsidy accessible to a broader range of employers by including employers with a revenue decline of less than 30 per cent and providing a gradually decreasing base subsidy to all qualifying employers
- introduce a top-up subsidy of up to an additional 25 per cent for employers that have been most adversely affected by the pandemic (50 per cent or more loss in revenue)
- provide certainty to employers that have already made business decisions for July and August by ensuring they would not receive a subsidy rate lower than they would have had under the previous rules
- address certain technical issues identified by stakeholders

The changes, if passed, will be effective retroactive to July 5, 2020 for the fifth claim period.

July 16, 2020 - The Prime Minister announced today that the Canada and the United States have agreed to extend the current border measures by one month, until August 21, 2020.

The Prime Minister also announced a federal investment of more than \$19 billion to help provinces and territories safely restart their economies and make our country more resilient to possible future waves of the virus. New federal funding will address seven priority areas:

- enhanced capacity for testing, contact tracing, and data management and information sharing to mitigate future outbreaks.
- investments in health care to respond to the pandemic, including support for Canadians experiencing challenges with substance use, mental health, or homelessness.
- support for vulnerable Canadians – including those in long-term care, home care, and palliative care – who are at risk of more severe cases of COVID-19.
- funding to secure a reliable source of personal protective equipment, and to recover some of the costs from previous investments made by provincial and territorial governments.
- support to ensure that safe and sufficient child care spaces are available to support parents' gradual return to work.
- joint funding with the provinces and territories to support municipalities on the front lines of restarting the economy, including by putting in place precautions for public spaces and essential services to reduce the spread of the virus, as well as a dedicated stream of funding for public transit.
- a temporary income support program that will provide workers who do not have paid sick leave with access to 10 days of paid sick leave related to COVID-19.

July 13, 2020 – The Prime Minister, announced his intentions to extend the wage subsidy into December. Further details will be available later this week.

June 18, 2020 - The Prime Minister, announced the upcoming launch of a new nation-wide mobile app to provide notifications of exposure to COVID-19 across Canada, with beta testing to begin in Ontario. The app, originally developed by the Government of Ontario, will help Canadians and public health officials identify and isolate the spread of the virus more quickly, which is an important step toward containing the virus and safely restarting the economy.

Use of the app will be voluntary. If someone tests positive for COVID-19, a health care provider will give them a unique temporary code, so they can upload their status anonymously to a national network. Other users who have downloaded the app and come in contact with that person will be notified, through the app, that they may have been exposed to the virus. The app will also provide users with information on steps they can take to keep themselves and others safe, and we are working with the provinces and territories so they can customize public health information based on their own jurisdiction.

To protect confidentiality and privacy, the app will not disclose the identity of users. This information will never be shared with any other entity, will not be stored by the app, and will never leave the user's phone. No personal information is collected by the app, and it does not track the user's location to ensure the privacy of all Canadians.

June 16, 2020 - The Prime Minister announced that the government is extending the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) by eight weeks, to ensure Canadians have the help they need as they transition back to work. This extension will make the benefit available to eligible workers for up to a total of 24 weeks. The CEWS is being extended to August 29, 2020, to protect jobs, allow businesses to keep employees on the payroll, and re-hire workers who were previously laid off.

June 12, 2020 – The Prime Minister announced the government has been working with airlines and airports on standards they should have in place, whether that's enhanced cleaning, or putting distancing measures as people wait in line. Our government is mandating temperature screening for air passengers through a phased approach, first for those travelling to Canada, then for those travelling from Canada, and finally for those travelling within Canada. A passenger who has a fever will not be permitted to board their flight. Employees in the secured areas of airports will also be required to have their temperature checked.

June 8, 2020 - Effective at midnight, immediate family members of citizens or permanent residents who are foreign nationals can enter Canada to be reunited, under a new limited exemption to the current border restrictions. This new policy will allow immediate family members from the United States, as well as from other countries, to be able to enter Canada under a series of stipulations. In order to be allowed in, the family members must have a plan to stay in Canada for at least 15 days, and they will have to self-quarantine for 14 days as soon as they enter the country. The purpose of this measure is not to allow people to come and go into Canada whenever they like, but rather to help Canadian families reunite during this unprecedented time.

May 20, 2020 - Canada's chief public health officer is officially recommending Canadians wear non-medical face masks when maintaining a two-metre distance isn't possible.

May 19, 2020 - An agreement has been reached between Canada and the United States to keep the border closed to all non-essential travel for another month (June 21). Prime Minister Justin Trudeau is cautioning that it could be months still before non-essential travel is allowed.

May 14, 2020 - Starting June 1, 2020, Parks Canada and Environment and Climate Change Canada will gradually resume some operations at selected national parks, national historic sites, national marine conservation areas and national wildlife areas.

May 13, 2020 - The application period for the Canada Emergency Student Benefit (CESB) will begin on Friday, May 15, 2020. The CESB, which will be delivered by the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA), will provide temporary income support to eligible post-secondary students and new graduates who are unable to work or find work this summer due to COVID-19, or are working and are not making over \$1000.

The CESB will be available from May to August 2020 to students who are Canadian citizens or permanent residents, and who are enrolled in a post-secondary education program leading to a degree, diploma, or certificate; or who ended their studies no earlier than December 2019. It will also be available to Canadian students studying abroad, as well as high school graduates who will be starting a post-secondary program in the coming months. The CESB will provide \$1,250 every four weeks to eligible students, or \$2,000 every four weeks to eligible students with disabilities, or those with children or other dependants.

May 11, 2020 - The Prime Minister announced new measures to support businesses so they can keep their workers on the payroll and weather this pandemic.

- Establish a Large Employer Emergency Financing Facility (LEEFF) to provide bridge financing to Canada's largest employers, whose needs during the pandemic are not being met through conventional financing, in order to keep their operations going. The objective of this support is to help protect Canadian jobs, help Canadian businesses weather the current economic downturn, and avoid bankruptcies of otherwise viable firms where possible. This support will not be used to resolve insolvencies or restructure firms, nor will it provide financing to companies that otherwise have the capacity to manage through the crisis. The additional liquidity provided through LEEFF will allow Canada's largest businesses and their suppliers to remain active during this difficult time, and position them for a rapid economic recovery.
- Expand the Business Credit Availability Program (BCAP) to mid-sized companies with larger financing needs. Support for mid-market businesses will include loans of up to \$60 million per company, and guarantees of up to \$80 million. Through the BCAP, Export Development Canada (EDC) and the Business Development Bank of Canada (BDC) will work with private sector lenders to support access to capital for Canadian businesses in all sectors and regions.
- Continue to provide financing to businesses through Farm Credit Canada, the BDC, and EDC, including through the Canada Account. This will ensure the government is able to respond to a wide range of financing needs, including for some large employers facing higher risks, with stricter terms in order to adequately protect taxpayers.

These measures are part of the Government of Canada's COVID-19 Economic Response Plan, which has helped protect Canadian jobs, and committed billions in support to Canadians and businesses facing hardship as a result of the pandemic. This includes an [extension on the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy](#), which allows businesses to keep workers on the payroll.

May 8, 2020 - The Prime Minister announced that the federal government will be extending the Canadian Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) beyond June. Further details will be released in the coming week.

April 28, 2020 - The Prime Minister announced that the federal, provincial, and territorial governments have come together and agreed to a set of common principles for restarting the Canadian economy, based on shared understanding and appreciation of what science and experts are telling us. They acknowledge the importance of restarting the economy through a gradual approach that protects the health of Canadians, including high-risk groups, as well as the need to ensure public health capacity for future waves of the virus, while at the same time continuing to support a range of economic sectors and Canadian workers.

The provinces and territories will take different steps at different times in order to ease restrictions, reflecting the specific circumstances in each jurisdiction. They identify four main principles, including taking a science and evidence-based approach to decision-making, coordination and collaboration between all jurisdictions, continued accountability and transparency of all governments, and flexibility and proportionality as information changes over time.

The criteria and measures that need to be in place in order to begin to take steps to restart the economy:

- COVID-19 transmission is controlled, so new cases are contained at a level that our health care system can manage.
- Sufficient public health capacity is in place to test, trace, isolate, and control the spread of the virus.

- Expanded health care capacity exists to support all needs, including COVID-19 and non-COVID-19 patients.
- Supports are in place for vulnerable groups, communities, and key populations. This includes the protection of seniors, residents of group living facilities, workers in close quarters, homeless people, and Indigenous people and those living in remote locations, health care workers and other essential workers, and inmates.
- Support and monitoring of workplace protocols are in place to keep Canadians safe at their jobs and prevent the introduction and spread of COVID-19.
- Restrictions on non-essential travel are eased and managed in a coordinated manner.
- Communities are supported in managing local disease activity, including in childcare, schools, and public transportation, and industry and economic sectors are engaged to support the health of Canadians, reduced viral activity, and protection of the economy as it restarts.

April 27, 2020 – The Government of Canada launches applications for the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy with payments expected to start as early as May 7th.

April 24, 2020 - The Prime Minister that the federal government has reached an agreement in principle with all provinces and territories to implement the **Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance** (CECRA) for small businesses. This program will lower rent by 75 per cent for small businesses that have been affected by COVID-19. The government is also providing further details on the program:

- The program will provide forgivable loans to qualifying commercial property owners to cover 50 per cent of three-monthly rent payments that are payable by eligible small business tenants who are experiencing financial hardship during April, May, and June.
- The loans will be forgiven if the mortgaged property owner agrees to reduce the eligible small business tenants' rent by at least 75 per cent for the three corresponding months under a rent forgiveness agreement, which will include a term not to evict the tenant while the agreement is in place. The small business tenant would cover the remainder, up to 25 per cent of the rent.
- Impacted small business tenants are businesses paying less than \$50,000 per month in rent and who have temporarily ceased operations or have experienced at least a 70 per cent drop in pre-COVID-19 revenues. This support will also be available to non-profit and charitable organizations.

April 23, 2020 - The Prime Minister announced more than \$1 billion in support of a national medical research strategy to fight COVID-19 that includes vaccine development, the production of treatments, and tracking of the virus. This new funding builds on the \$275 million investment for coronavirus research and medical countermeasures announced in March.

Separately, the Government of Canada is providing over \$675,000 through the Stem Cell Network to support two new research projects and one clinical trial. The clinical trial will evaluate the safety of a potential cell therapy to reduce the impacts and severity of acute respiratory distress associated with COVID-19, and the two projects will generate critical information about how cells in the airway and brain are affected by the virus.

April 22, 2020 - The Prime Minister announced comprehensive support of nearly \$9 billion for post-secondary students and recent graduates. This plan will help provide the financial support they need this summer, help them continue their studies in the fall, and help many get the experience they need to start their careers. These measures include launching:

- the proposed **Canada Emergency Student Benefit**, which would provide support to students and new graduates who are not eligible for the Canada Emergency Response Benefit. This benefit would provide \$1,250 per month for eligible students or \$1,750 per month for eligible students with dependents or disabilities. The benefit would be available from May to August 2020.
- the new Canada Student Service Grant, which will help students gain valuable work experience and skills while they help their communities during the COVID-19 pandemic. For students who choose to do national service and serve their communities, the new Canada Student Service Grant will provide up to \$5,000 for their education in the fall.

The Government of Canada will expand existing federal employment, skills development, and youth programming to create up to 116,000 jobs, placements, and other training opportunities to help students find employment and develop valuable skills this summer and over the coming months. In addition, to help students continue their studies in the fall, the government will:

- double the Canada Student Grants for all eligible full-time students to up to \$6,000 and up to \$3,600 for part-time students in 2020-21. The Canada Student Grants for Students with Permanent Disabilities and Students with Dependents would also be doubled.
- broaden eligibility for student financial assistance by removing the expected student's and spouse's contributions in 2020-21, in recognition that many students and families will struggle to save for school this year.
- enhance the Canada Student Loans Program by raising the maximum weekly amount that can be provided to a student in 2020-21 from \$210 to \$350.
- increase existing distinctions-based support for First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Nation students pursuing post-secondary education by providing an additional \$75.2 million in 2020-21.
- extend expiring federal graduate research scholarships and postdoctoral fellowships, and supplement existing federal research grants, to support students and post-doctoral fellows, by providing \$291.6 million to the federal granting councils. In addition, the government intends to enhance work opportunities for graduate students and post-doctoral fellows through the National Research Council of Canada.

April 21, 2020 - The Government has now released an online resource which employers can use to determine their eligibility for the CEWS as well to obtain an estimate of the subsidy value which they may be entitled to. Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy Calculator for Employers:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/subsidy/emergency-wage-subsidy/cews-calculate-subsidy-amount.html>

April 17, 2020 - The Prime Minister announced new actions to protect Canadian jobs and provide more support to businesses and organizations dealing with the economic impacts of COVID-19. The Government of Canada will provide over \$1.7 billion for targeted measures, including:

- \$675 million to give financing support to small and medium-sized businesses that are unable to access the government's existing COVID-19 support measures, through Canada's Regional Development Agencies.
- \$287 million to support rural businesses and communities, including by providing them with much-needed access to capital through the Community Futures Network.
- \$500 million to establish a COVID-19 Emergency Support Fund for Cultural, Heritage and Sport Organizations to help address the financial needs of affected organizations within these sectors so they can continue to support artists and athletes. This measure is consistent with the government's other existing COVID-19 support measures for wages and fixed costs for organizations.

- \$250 million to assist innovative, early-stage companies that are unable to access existing COVID-19 business support, through the National Research Council of Canada's Industrial Research Assistance Program.
- \$20.1 million in support for Futurpreneur Canada to continue to support young entrepreneurs across Canada who are facing challenges due to COVID-19. The funding will allow Futurpreneur Canada to provide payment relief for its clients for up to 12 months.

The government recognizes some sectors are disproportionately affected by COVID-19, such as Canada's energy sector, which is dealing with low prices caused by a surge in global crude oil supply and a decline in demand due to the economic effects of the pandemic. That's why the government is announcing new measures to help retain and create approximately 10,000 well-paying jobs in the energy sector. To support Canadians working in this sector, the Government of Canada will:

- provide up to \$1.72 billion, including funding to the governments of Alberta, Saskatchewan, and British Columbia, and the Alberta Orphan Well Association, to clean up orphan and/or inactive oil and gas wells – creating thousands of jobs and having lasting environmental benefits.
- provide up to \$750 million to create a new proposed Emissions Reduction Fund to reduce emissions in Canada's oil and gas sector, with a focus on methane. This fund will provide primarily repayable contributions to conventional and offshore oil and gas firms to support their investments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Of this amount, \$75 million will be allocated to the offshore sector.
- expand eligibility for the new Business Credit Availability Program announced on March 13, 2020, to help Canadian businesses get the financing they need during this period of uncertainty. The support will be available to medium-sized businesses with larger financing needs, beginning with companies in Canada's energy sector, to help them maintain operations and keep their employees on the job.

April 16, 2020 - The Prime Minister announced new measures to support Canadian businesses so they can keep their doors open and their employees on the job. The Government of Canada is expanding the Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA) to businesses that paid between \$20,000 and \$1.5 million in total payroll in 2019. This new range will replace the previous one of between \$50,000 and \$1 million, and will help address the challenges faced by small businesses to cover non-deferrable operating costs. Since the launch of the CEBA on April 9, 2020, more than 195,000 loans have been approved by financial institutions, extending more than \$7.5 billion in credit to small businesses. The Canada Emergency Business Account provides interest-free loans of up to \$40,000 to small businesses and not-for-profits, to help cover their operating costs during a period where their revenues have been temporarily reduced.

April 15, 2020 – The Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, today announced that the government is stepping up to better support those who need help but don't qualify for the CERB, and Canadians working in essential jobs who make less than they would if they received the benefit.

To help more Canadians benefit from the CERB, the government will be changing the eligibility rules to:

- Allow people to earn up to \$1,000 per month while collecting the CERB.
- Extend the CERB to seasonal workers who have exhausted their EI regular benefits and are unable to undertake their usual seasonal work as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak.
- Extend the CERB to workers who recently exhausted their EI regular benefits and are unable to find a job or return to work because of COVID-19.

April 14, 2020 - The Prime Minister announced on that effective at midnight, anyone who is returning to Canada from abroad has to have a "credible quarantine plan" or they will be forced to spend 14 days in

isolation in a “quarantine location.” This strengthening of the Quarantine Act will give authorities the ability to evaluate the plan presented by the person coming into Canada and determine whether it’s adequate or if they need to be placed in a location “like a hotel.”

April 11, 2020 - The House of Commons and the Senate on April 11, 2020, the Government of Canada introduced legislation amending the *Income Tax Act* (Canada) (ITA) to implement the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS), which passed in both chambers and received royal assent the same day. Details of the legislation can be found here: <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan/wage-subsidy.html>

April 8, 2020 - Although the legislation has not yet been implemented, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced today that the requirement to have a 30% revenue decline to qualify for the 75% wage subsidy will be relaxed for March. At present, it is anticipated that businesses will only need a 15% revenue decline to qualify in March, with the 30% decline still applicable to April and May.

The Prime Minister also announced that changes are coming to the Canada Summer Jobs program, with subsidies of up to 100% being made available to qualifying organizations.

April 3, 2020 - The Canadian government has implemented additional measures for domestic air travel. Domestic flights will apply measures similar to that of international flights to protect travellers. Many provinces have taken a stand with entering travellers:

- Nova Scotia has declared anyone entering the province must self-isolate for 14 days, regardless of being asymptomatic;
- Alberta advises that passengers in affected seats from domestic flights are considered “close contacts” and are at risk of exposure and are legally required to self-isolate for 14 days and monitor for symptoms;
- Travellers entering Manitoba are strongly recommended to self-isolate for 14 days if they are from a different province, with a few exceptions.
- Quebec has implemented restrictions on travel between regions for non-essential purposes, in order to protect its population and try to flatten the curve. It is currently recommend to avoid all non-essential travel.

April 1, 2020 - Federal Government provided additional details pertaining to the administration of **Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy** (the 75% Wage Subsidy Program). Eligible employers who suffer a drop in gross revenues of at least 30% in March, April or May, when compared to the same month in 2019, will be able to access the subsidy.

An employer’s entitlement will be based entirely on the salary or wages actually paid to employees. Eligible employers will be able to access the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy by applying through the Canada Revenue Agency online portal, more details in how to apply will follow. The subsidy will cover up to 75% of wages on the first \$58,700 that an employee earns, up to a maximum of \$847 a week. The program will be in place for a 12-week period, from March 15 to June 6, 2020.

The **Canada Emergency Response Benefit** (“CERB”) is an income support payment payable to eligible workers for up to four (4) months within the period falling between March 15, 2020 and October 3, 2020 for workers who have ceased work and are not receiving income as a result of COVID-19. The Federal Government has announced that the amount of the benefit will be \$2,000 per month.

To qualify for the CERB, a worker must be at least 15 years of age, and must have a total income of at least \$5000 (or such other amount as prescribed) for 2019 or in the 12 months prior to their application from employment, self-employment, EI benefits, or provincial pregnancy and parental benefits. The CERB will be available to the following workers, including self-employed individuals:

- who have lost their job or income due to COVID-19;
- who are unable to work as a result of sickness or quarantine; and
- who need to provide care of an individual who is sick or in quarantine, or who need to provide care or supervision to a child due to school or daycare closures

A worker must have ceased working for reasons related COVID-19 for at least 14 consecutive days within the 4-week period for which they apply for the benefit in order to be eligible. A worker is not eligible for the CERB if they quit their employment voluntarily. The CERB will not be payable to those who are in receipt of employment or self-employment income (subject to exceptions that may be made by regulation), EI benefits or provincial pregnancy and parental benefits for the days on which they have ceased working.

March 30, 2020 - Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced further details of the amended wage subsidy program. Eligible businesses – now including non-profits, charities as well as large and small companies – whose revenues have decreased by at least 30% due to COVID-19 will apparently qualify for the subsidy. The subsidy will cover up to 75% of wages on the first \$58,700 that an employee earns, up to a maximum of \$847 a week.

March 27, 2020 - Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced that the initial 10% wage subsidy implemented to help businesses adversely affected by COVID-19 was insufficient and would be increased to a **75% wage subsidy** for qualifying businesses. The announced subsidy is intended to be backdated to March 15, 2020. While these same eligibility criteria are presumed to also be intended to apply to the new 75% wage subsidy, details of the program are still being worked out, and more information is expected to be released by Monday, March 30, 2020.

The Prime Minister also announced today the launch of a new **Canada Emergency Business Account** for qualifying small business loans. Under this program, small and medium sized businesses will be eligible for loans of up to \$40,000.

As well, businesses and self-employed individuals will be permitted to defer GST, HST and import duty payments to the end of June 2020. The deferral will apply to the following GST/HST reporting periods:

- **For monthly filers** – the February, March and April 2020 reporting periods;
- **For quarterly filers** – the January 1-March 31, 2020 reporting period;
- **For annual filers** – the amounts collected and owing for their previous fiscal year and installments of GST/HST in respect of the current fiscal year
- The deferral for GST and customs duty payments on imported goods will include amounts owing for March, April and May 2020.

March 25, 2020 - Federal Government announced that the Emergency Care Benefit and Emergency Support Benefit previously announced on March 18, 2020 as part of the Federal Economic Response Plan were being eliminated and replaced by the amalgamated **Canada Emergency Response Benefit**. The Canada Emergency Response Benefit will provide \$2000 per month for four (4) months for workers who are not receiving income as a result of COVID-19. This is a taxable benefit, but taxes will not be deducted at source. The government announced that this will include workers, including self-employed individuals:

- who have lost their job or income due to COVID-19;
- who are unable to work as a result of sickness or quarantine; and
- who need to provide care of an individual who is sick or in quarantine, or who need to provide care or supervision to a child due to school or daycare closures.

It is currently unclear whether this benefit, like the Emergency Care and Emergency Support Benefits which it replaced, will only be available to individuals who do not qualify for EI or EI sickness benefits. The Federal Government is creating an online portal to receive applications for the Canada Emergency Response Benefit and indicates that the goal is for first payments to be issued in April. Additional details to follow as they become available.

March 20, 2020 - While Canada has not defined what is considered “essential” travel, the United States has defined “essential” as:

- U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents returning to the US
- individuals traveling for medical purpose
- individuals travelling to attend education institutions
- individuals travelling to work in the US
- individuals travelling for emergency response and public health purposes
- individuals engage in lawful cross-border trade (i.e. truck drivers), etc.

The land border between Canada and the US will be closed for all non-essential travel for the next 30 days, to April 30, 2020.

The Deputy Prime Minister of Canada announced that temporary foreign workers and students with valid visas to enter Canada will be allowed to re-enter. As with anyone re-entering Canada, these foreign workers will be required to self-isolate for 14 days on their return.

March 18, 2020 – Government of Canada has closed the US-Canada border, with exceptions only for trade, commerce and essential services. They also announced an [Economic Response Plan](#):

EI Sickness Benefits - provide up to 15 weeks of income replacement and is available to eligible those who are unable to work because of illness, injury or quarantine, to allow them time to restore their health and return to work. Canadians quarantined can apply for EI sickness benefits. The one-week waiting period for EI sickness benefits has been waived for claimants who have been quarantined, as has the requirement for a medical certificate.

Regular EI Benefits - there have not been changes made to regular EI benefits. Employees who are laid off may apply for regular EI benefits if they qualify under existing guidelines. If Employees are not eligible for EI, they may be eligible for Emergency Support Benefits.

Tax Flexibility Measures for Individuals - The CRA has deferred the filing due date for 2019 tax returns for individuals to June 1, 2020. Individuals who may be entitled to receive enhanced benefits under the GST credit or Canada Child Benefit are encouraged to file their returns as soon as possible. The CRA will also allow taxpayers to defer the payment of any income tax amounts that become owing on or after March 18, 2020 and before September 2020 until after August 31, 2020, without the accrual of interest or penalties. The CRA will also recognize electronic signatures for the purposes of the *Income Tax Act* on a temporary basis in order to reduce the necessity of meeting between taxpayers and tax preparers as a result of COVID-19.

Tax Flexibility Measures for Businesses - The CRA will allow all businesses to defer the payment of any income tax amounts that become owing on or after March 18, 2020 and before September 2020 until after August 31, 2020, without the accrual of interest or penalties. The CRA will not initiate any post assessment GST/HST or Income Tax audits in the four weeks commencing on March 18, 2020 for small or medium businesses and will temporarily suspend audit interactions for the vast majority of businesses.

Business Credit Availability Program - Business Development Bank of Canada and Export Development Canada will be permitted to provide more than \$10 billion of additional support targeted predominantly to small and medium-sized businesses.

March 17, 2020 - Mortgage and Credit Support - Canada's big six banks announced 6-month payment deferrals would be available for mortgages, to be assessed on a case-by-case basis. The big six banks also announced that other flexible solutions and opportunities for relief would be available to customers facing financial disruptions as a result of COVID-19. The Federal Government, through the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation ("CMHC"), will provide increased flexibility by permitting lenders to allow payment deferral on homeowner CMHC-insured mortgages.

March 16, 2020 - anyone, including Canadian citizens and permanent residents, who exhibit symptoms abroad will be restricted from returning to Canada. Employers should be prohibiting international travel at this time as well as any non-essential travel within Canada.

Persons returning to Canada from international travel travelling, including the USA, have been requested to self-isolate on their return for 14 days.

March 15, 2020 – the Federal Government will waive the one-week waiting period for EI sickness benefits for absences from work caused by COVID-19 quarantine. No medical certificate is required for individuals claiming EI sickness benefits due to quarantine.

March 13, 2020 - Government of Canada has requested Canadians to avoid any travel outside of Canada.

Ontario:

February 14, 2022 – The Ontario government is cautiously and gradually easing public health measures sooner, with the next phase of measures being eased on February 17, 2022. Ontario will further ease public health measures, including, but not limited to:

- Increasing social gathering limits to 50 people indoors and 100 people outdoors
- Increasing organized public event limits to 50 people indoors, with no limit outdoors
- Removing capacity limits in the following indoor public settings where proof of vaccination is required, including but not limited to:
 - Restaurants, bars and other food or drink establishments without dance facilities
 - Non-spectator areas of sports and recreational fitness facilities, including gyms
 - Cinemas
 - Meeting and event spaces, including conference centres or convention centres
 - Casinos, bingo halls and other gaming establishments
 - Indoor areas of settings that choose to opt-in to proof of vaccination requirements.
- Allowing 50 per cent of the usual seating capacity at sports arenas
- Allowing 50 percent of the usual seating capacity for concert venues and theatres
- Increasing indoor capacity limits to 25 per cent in the remaining higher-risk settings where proof of vaccination is required, including nightclubs, restaurants where there is dancing, as well as bathhouses and sex clubs
- Increasing capacity limits for indoor weddings, funerals or religious services, rites, or ceremonies to the number of people who can maintain two metres physical distance. Capacity limits are removed if the location opts-in to use proof of vaccination or if the service, rite, or ceremony is occurring outdoors.

Capacity limits in other indoor public settings, such as grocery stores, pharmacies, retail and shopping malls, will be maintained at, or increased to, the number of people who can maintain two metres physical distance.

Effective March 1, 2022 - Ontario intends to take additional steps to ease public health measures if public health and health system indicators continue to improve. This includes lifting capacity limits in all remaining indoor public settings. Ontario will also lift proof of vaccination requirements for all settings at this time. Businesses and other settings may choose to continue to require proof of vaccination. Masking requirements will remain in place at this time, with a specific timeline to lift this measure to be communicated at a later date.

February 9, 2022 – the Ontario government is expanding access to free rapid testing kits to the general public for at-home use. As a result of the province's direct procurement, Ontario will be distributing 5 million rapid tests each week for eight weeks through pharmacy and grocery locations across the province, as well as 500,000 each week through community partners in vulnerable communities. In total, the province is making 44 million rapid tests available to the public for free over the coming weeks.

January 20, 2022 – The Ontario government released details of steps to cautiously and gradually ease public health measures, starting on January 31, 2022.

- Increasing social gathering limits to 10 people indoors and 25 people outdoors.
- Increasing or maintaining capacity limits at 50 per cent in indoor public settings, including but not limited to:
 - Restaurants, bars and other food or drink establishments without dance facilities;
 - Retailers (including grocery stores and pharmacies)
 - Shopping malls;
 - Non-spectator areas of sports and recreational fitness facilities, including gyms;
 - Cinemas;
 - Meeting and event spaces;
 - Recreational amenities and amusement parks, including water parks;
 - Museums, galleries, aquariums, zoos and similar attractions; and
 - Casinos, bingo halls and other gaming establishments
 - Religious services, rites, or ceremonies.
- Allowing spectator areas of facilities such as sporting events, concert venues and theatres to operate at 50 per cent seated capacity or 500 people, whichever is less.

Effective February 21, 2022, Ontario will lift public health measures, including:

- Increasing social gathering limits to 25 people indoors and 100 people outdoors.
- Removing capacity limits in indoor public settings where proof of vaccination is required, including but not limited to restaurants, indoor sports and recreational facilities, cinemas, as well as other settings that choose to opt-in to proof of vaccination requirements.
- Permitting spectator capacity at sporting events, concert venues, and theatres at 50 per cent capacity.
- Limiting capacity in most remaining indoor public settings where proof of vaccination is not required to the number of people that can maintain two metres of physical distance.
- Indoor religious services, rites or ceremonies limited to the number that can maintain two metres of physical distance, with no limit if proof of vaccination is required.
- Increasing indoor capacity limits to 25 per cent in the remaining higher-risk settings where proof of vaccination is required, including nightclubs, wedding receptions in meeting or event spaces where there is dancing.

Effective March 14, 2022, Ontario will take additional steps to ease public health measures, including:

- Lifting capacity limits in all indoor public settings. Proof of vaccination will be maintained in existing settings in addition to other regular measures.
- Lifting remaining capacity limits on religious services, rites, or ceremonies.
- Increase social gathering limits to 50 people indoors with no limits for outdoor gatherings.

January 3, 2022 – the Ontario government is temporarily moving the province into [Step Two of its Roadmap to Reopen with modifications](#) that take into account the province’s successful vaccination efforts. The province will return to the modified version of Step Two of the Roadmap to Reopen effective Wednesday, January 5, 2022 at 12:01 a.m. for at least 21 days (until January 26, 2022), subject to trends in public health and health system indicators. These measures include:

- Reducing social gathering limits to five people indoors and 10 people outdoors.
- Limiting capacity at organized public events to five people indoors.
- Requiring businesses and organizations to ensure employees work remotely unless the nature of their work requires them to be on-site.

- Limiting capacity at indoor weddings, funerals, and religious services, rites and ceremonies to 50 per cent capacity of the particular room. Outdoor services are limited to the number of people that can maintain 2 metres of physical distance. Social gatherings associated with these services must adhere to the social gathering limits.
- Retail settings, including shopping malls, permitted at 50 per cent capacity. For shopping malls physical distancing will be required in line-ups, loitering will not be permitted and food courts will be required to close.
- Personal care services permitted at 50 per cent capacity and other restrictions. Saunas, steam rooms, and oxygen bars closed.
- Closing indoor meeting and event spaces with limited exceptions but permitting outdoor spaces to remain open with restrictions.
- Public libraries limited to 50 per cent capacity.
- Closing indoor dining at restaurants, bars and other food or drink establishments. Outdoor dining with restrictions, takeout, drive through and delivery is permitted.
- Restricting the sale of alcohol after 10 p.m. and the consumption of alcohol on-premise in businesses or settings after 11 p.m. with delivery and takeout, grocery/convenience stores and other liquor stores exempted.
- Closing indoor concert venues, theatres, cinemas, rehearsals and recorded performances permitted with restrictions.
- Closing museums, galleries, zoos, science centres, landmarks, historic sites, botanical gardens and similar attractions, amusement parks and waterparks, tour and guide services and fairs, rural exhibitions, and festivals. Outdoor establishments permitted to open with restrictions and with spectator occupancy, where applicable, limited to 50 per cent capacity.
- Closing indoor horse racing tracks, car racing tracks and other similar venues. Outdoor establishments permitted to open with restrictions and with spectator occupancy limited to 50 per cent capacity. Boat tours permitted at 50 per cent capacity.
- Closing indoor sport and recreational fitness facilities including gyms, except for athletes training for the Olympics and Paralympics and select professional and elite amateur sport leagues. Outdoor facilities are permitted to operate but with the number of spectators not to exceed 50 per cent occupancy and other requirements.
- All publicly funded and private schools will move to remote learning starting January 5 until at least January 17, subject to public health trends and operational considerations.
- School buildings would be permitted to open for child care operations, including emergency child care, to provide in-person instruction for students with special education needs who cannot be accommodated remotely and for staff who are unable to deliver quality instruction from home.
- During this period of remote learning, free emergency child care will be provided for school-aged children of health care and other eligible frontline workers.

December 30, 2021 – The Ontario government is taking further action to provide additional protection to high-risk settings, and continue to safeguard hospitals and ICU capacity as the province continues to rapidly accelerate its booster dose rollout. Based on the latest evidence and Ontario’s high rate of vaccination, the province is also updating testing and isolation guidelines to protect our most vulnerable and maintain the stability of critical workforces, including frontline health care workers, first responders and critical infrastructure like energy and food and supply chains.

[Updated Testing and Isolation Guidelines in Response to Omicron](#)

Effective December 31, publicly-funded PCR testing will be available only for high-risk individuals who are symptomatic and/or are at risk of severe illness from COVID-19, including for the purposes of confirming a COVID-19 diagnosis to begin treatment, and workers and residents in the highest risk settings, as well as vulnerable populations. Members of the general public with mild symptoms are asked not to seek testing. A full list of eligible individuals can be found [here](#). In addition, most individuals with a positive result from a rapid antigen test will no longer be required or encouraged to get a confirmatory PCR or rapid molecular test.

Ontario is also changing the required isolation period based on growing evidence that generally healthy people with COVID-19 are most infectious in the two days before and three days after symptoms develop. Individuals with COVID-19 who are vaccinated, as well as children under 12, will be required to isolate for five days following the onset of symptoms. Their household contacts are also required to isolate with them. These individuals can end isolation after five days if their symptoms are improved for at least 24 hours and all public health and safety measures, such as masking and physical distancing, are followed. Non-household contacts are required to self-monitor for ten days.

Individuals who are unvaccinated, partially vaccinated or immunocompromised will be required to isolate for 10 days. While individuals who work or live in high-risk health care settings are recommended to return to work after 10 days from their last exposure or symptom onset or from their date of diagnosis, to ensure sufficient staffing levels workers will have the opportunity to return to work after isolating for seven days with negative PCR or rapid antigen test results, which will be provided by the province through the health care setting.

December 17, 2021 – Ontario government is applying additional public health and workplace safety measures, including capacity and social gathering limits. These measures will help curb transmission and continue to safeguard the Ontario's hospitals and ICU capacity as the province continues to rapidly accelerate its booster dose rollout. Ontario is introducing a 50 per cent capacity limit in the following indoor public settings:

- Restaurants, bars and other food or drink establishments and strip clubs;
- Personal care services;
- Personal physical fitness trainers;
- Retailers (including grocery stores and pharmacies);
- Shopping malls;
- Non-spectator areas of facilities used for sports and recreational fitness activities (e.g. gyms);
- Indoor recreational amenities;
- Indoor clubhouses at outdoor recreational amenities;
- Tour and guide services;
- Photography studios and services;
- Marinas and boating clubs;
- Facilities used for sports and recreational fitness activities;
- Entertainment facilities such as concert venues, theatres and cinemas;
- Racing venues;
- Meeting and event spaces;
- Studio audiences in commercial film and television production;
- Museums, galleries, aquariums, zoos, science centres, landmarks, historic sites, botanical gardens and similar attractions;
- Casinos, bingo halls and other gaming establishments; and

- Fairs, rural exhibitions, and festivals.

To further reduce the spread of COVID-19 and the Omicron variant, additional protective measures are also being applied:

- The number of patrons permitted to sit at a table in a restaurant, bar and other food or drink establishment and meeting and event space will be limited to 10 people and patrons will be required to remain seated.
- Patrons must remain seated at concerts venues, theatres and cinemas.
- Bars and restaurants and meeting and event spaces and strip clubs that serve food and drink like a restaurant will be required to close by 11 p.m. Take out and delivery will be permitted beyond 11 p.m.
- Singing and dancing in restaurants and bars and other select settings will not be allowed except for workers or performers.
- Food and/or drink services will be prohibited at indoor sporting events; concert venues, theatres and cinemas; casinos, bingo halls and other gaming establishments; and horse racing tracks, car racing tracks and other similar venues. Restaurants, bars and other food or drink establishments including in these establishment can operate subject to the rules applicable to these settings (e.g., 50% capacity).
- The sale of alcohol will be restricted after 10 p.m. and consumption of alcohol in businesses or settings after 11 p.m.

In addition, to mitigate COVID-19 transmission that can occur at informal social gatherings, the province is also reducing social gathering limits to 10 people indoors and 25 people outdoors. These restrictions will come into effect on 12:01 a.m. on Sunday, December 19, 2021.

December 10, 2021 – The Ontario government is taking action to further encourage vaccination and help limit the spread of COVID-19 and the Omicron variant. These measures will help reduce the risk of transmission during the winter months and further encourage every eligible Ontarian to get their shot so that Ontario's hospital capacity is protected. This includes the following measures:

- Delaying the lifting of proof of vaccination requirements beyond January 17, 2022, aligned with the reopening plan that stipulated that doing so was contingent on the absence of concerning trends.
- Effective January 4, 2022, requiring the use of the enhanced vaccine certificate with QR code and the Verify Ontario app in settings where proof of vaccination is required. The QR code can be used digitally or by printing a paper copy. Individuals can download their enhanced certificate with QR code by visiting <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/book-vaccine/>.
- Strengthening the verification process for medical exemptions and clinical trial exemptions by requiring a certificate with a QR code. Organizations and businesses that are under the provincial proof-of-vaccination system will be advised to no longer accept physician notes as of January 10, 2022.
- Effective December 20, 2021, requiring proof of vaccination for youth aged 12 to 17 years participating in organized sports at recreational facilities.
- On the advice of the Chief Medical Officer of Health, Ontarians are strongly advised to limit their social gatherings and the number of gatherings they attend over the holiday season. Additional precautions should be taken if all individuals are not fully vaccinated or where vaccination status is unknown.

- Employers are advised to allow their employees to work from home whenever possible.

The full suite of measures is outlined in the [backgrounder](#).

December 7, 2021 - The Ontario government is extending its Worker Income Protection Benefit program, which provides paid sick days, until July 31, 2022 to continue keeping workers safe and ensure they do not lose pay if they need to miss work for reasons related to COVID-19. Employees can continue to access this paid leave to get tested, vaccinated, self-isolate, or care for a family member.

December 2, 2021 – The Ontario government is accelerating COVID-19 vaccine booster dose eligibility to Ontarians aged 50 and over and additional high-risk individuals, providing an extra layer of protection against COVID-19 and its variants. Starting on Monday, December 13, 2021 at 8:00 a.m., individuals aged 50 and over will be eligible to schedule their booster dose appointments. Appointments will be booked for approximately six months (168 days) after a second dose.

November 22, 2021 – Children aged five to 11 will be eligible to book their appointment to receive the vaccine beginning Tuesday, November 23, 2021. Approximately one million children aged five to 11 are eligible to receive the vaccine which will help protect Ontario's progress in the fight against COVID-19 and keep the province's schools safer and open for in-person learning as more people move indoors and attend family gatherings during the colder months this winter.

November 3, 2021 – The Ontario government is expanding eligibility for booster doses of the COVID-19 vaccine to additional groups of high-risk individuals starting November 6, 2021. Over the coming months, Ontario is also prepared to gradually roll out booster doses to all Ontarians aged 12 and over. The province will begin offering booster doses of the COVID-19 vaccine to the following vulnerable populations if at least six months have passed since their last dose:

- Individuals aged 70 and over (born in 1951 or earlier);
- Health care workers and designated essential caregivers in congregate settings (including long-term care home and retirement home staff and designated caregivers);
- Individuals who received a complete series of a viral vector vaccine (two doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine or one dose of the Janssen vaccine); and
- First Nation, Inuit and Métis adults and their non-Indigenous household members.

Booster doses are being offered to these groups based on evidence of gradual waning immunity six months after receiving their second dose and a higher risk of severe illness from COVID-19.

October 22, 2021 – The Ontario government has released [A Plan to Safely Reopen Ontario and Manage COVID-19 for the Long-Term](#), which outlines the province's gradual approach to lifting remaining public health and workplace safety measures by March 2022. The plan will be guided by the ongoing assessment of key public health and health care indicators and supported by local or regional tailored responses to COVID-19. Ontario will slowly and incrementally lift all remaining public health and workplace safety measures, including the provincial requirement for proof of vaccination and wearing of face coverings in indoor public settings, over the next six months. This phased approach will be guided by the ongoing assessment and monitoring of key public health and health care indicators, such as the identification of any new COVID-19 variants, increases in hospitalizations and ICU occupancy and rapid increases in transmission to ensure that public health and workplace safety measures are lifted safely.

Effective October 25, 2021, Ontario will lift capacity limits in the vast majority of settings where proof of vaccination are required, such as restaurants, bars and other food or drink establishments; indoor areas of sports and recreational facilities such as gyms and where personal physical fitness trainers provide instruction; casinos, bingo halls and other gaming establishments; and indoor meeting and event spaces. Limits will also be lifted in certain outdoor settings.

Effective November 15, 2021, the government intends to lift capacity limits in the remaining higher-risk settings where proof of vaccination is required, including food or drink establishments with dance facilities (e.g., night clubs, wedding receptions in meeting/event spaces where there is dancing); strip clubs, bathhouses and sex clubs.

Effective January 17, 2022, the province intends to begin gradually lifting capacity limits in settings where proof of vaccination is not required. Proof of vaccination requirements may also begin to be gradually lifted at this time, including for restaurants, bars and other food and drink establishments, facilities used for sports and recreational facilities and casinos, bingo halls and other gaming establishments.

Effective February 7, 2022, the government intends to lift proof of vaccination requirements in high-risk settings, including night clubs, strip clubs, and bathhouses and sex clubs.

By March 28, 2022, it is intended that remaining public health and workplace safety measures will be lifted, including wearing face coverings in indoor public settings. Recommendations may be released for specific settings, if appropriate. In addition, the provincial requirement for proof of vaccination will be lifted for all remaining settings, including meeting and event spaces, sporting events, concerts, theatres and cinemas, racing venues and commercial and film productions with studio audiences.

October 15, 2021 – In advance of October 22, the Ontario government is making the enhanced vaccine certificate with official QR code and the free, made-in Ontario verification app, Verify Ontario, available for download. Together, these tools will make it easier, more secure and convenient for individuals to provide proof of vaccination where required to do so, and for businesses and organizations to verify vaccine certificates while protecting people's privacy.

October 8, 2021 – With public health and health care indicators remaining stable or improving, the government is cautiously lifting capacity limits in select indoor and outdoor settings where proof of vaccination is required, as well as certain outdoor settings that have a capacity below 20,000. This gradual and incremental approach will continue to help protect people and ensure the province continues to cautiously lift public health measures safely.

Effective Saturday, October 9, 2021, at 12:01 a.m., capacity limits will be lifted to allow 100 per cent capacity in the following settings:

- Concert venues, theatres and cinemas;
- Spectator areas of facilities for sports and recreational fitness (would not include gyms, personal training);
- Meeting and event spaces (indoor meeting and event spaces will still need to limit capacity to the number that can maintain physical distancing);
- Horseracing tracks, car racing tracks, and other similar venues; and

- Commercial film and television productions with studio audiences.

Other public health and workplace safety measures continue to remain in effect for these settings. This can include wearing face coverings, screening and the collecting of patron information to support contact tracing. In settings where capacity limits have been lifted, the requirement for individuals to maintain two metres of physical distancing are being removed, with limited exceptions. In addition, proof of vaccination will continue to be required in outdoor settings where the normal maximum capacity is 20,000 people or more to help keep these venues safe for patrons.

September 24, 2021 – Ontario is cautiously easing capacity limits for select indoor and outdoor settings where proof of vaccination is required. Effective September 25, 2021, at 12:01 a.m., capacity limits will be increased in many of the indoor settings where proof of vaccination is required. Meeting and event spaces, such as banquet halls and conference/convention centres; sporting events; concerts, theatres and cinemas; racing venues (e.g., horse racing); and commercial and film television productions with studio audiences will be increased to up to 50 per cent capacity or 10,000 people (whichever is less) for indoor events.

September 14, 2021 – Based on the recommendation of the Chief Medical Officer of Health and in alignment with NACI's recommendation, the province will begin offering third doses of the COVID-19 vaccine to additional vulnerable populations:

- Those undergoing active treatment for solid tumors;
- Those who are in receipt of chimeric antigen receptor (CAR)-T-cell;
- Those with moderate or severe primary immunodeficiency (e.g., DiGeorge syndrome, Wiskott-Aldrich syndrome);
- Stage 3 or advanced untreated HIV infection and those with acquired immunodeficiency syndrome; and
- Those undergoing active treatment with the following categories of immunosuppressive therapies: anti-B cell therapies (monoclonal antibodies targeting CD19, CD20 and CD22), high-dose systemic corticosteroids, alkylating agents, antimetabolites, or tumor-necrosis factor (TNF) inhibitors and other biologic agents that are significantly immunosuppressive.

Individuals in these groups can receive their third dose at a recommended interval of eight weeks following their second dose and will be contacted by their health care provider such as their primary care provider, specialist, or their hospital specialty program when they are eligible to receive the vaccine.

This expanded eligibility supplements the government's previous decision to offer third doses of the COVID-19 vaccine to select vulnerable populations:

- Transplant recipients (including solid organ transplant and hematopoietic stem cell transplants);
- Patients with hematological cancers (examples include lymphoma, myeloma, leukemia) on active treatment (chemotherapy, targeted therapies, immunotherapy);
- Recipients of an anti-CD20 agent (e.g. rituximab, ocrelizumab, ofatumumab); and
- Residents of high-risk congregate settings including long-term care homes, higher-risk licensed retirement homes and First Nations elder care lodges.

September 1, 2021 – Beginning September 22, 2021, Ontario will require proof of vaccination focused on indoor public settings. All Ontarians who registered their vaccines are encouraged to download their vaccine receipt as proof of their vaccine status until an enhanced vaccine certificate with a QR code is

available. Ontarians will need to be fully vaccinated (two doses plus 14 days) and provide their proof of vaccination along with photo ID to access certain public settings and facilities. This approach focuses on higher-risk indoor public settings where face coverings cannot always be worn and includes:

- Restaurants and bars (excluding outdoor patios, as well as delivery and takeout);
- Nightclubs (including outdoor areas of the establishment);
- Meeting and event spaces, such as banquet halls and conference/convention centres;
- Facilities used for sports and fitness activities and personal fitness training, such as gyms, fitness and recreational facilities with the exception of youth recreational sport;
- Sporting events;
- Casinos, bingo halls and gaming establishments;
- Concerts, music festivals, theatres and cinemas;
- Strip clubs, bathhouses and sex clubs;
- Racing venues (e.g., horse racing).

Individuals who cannot receive the vaccine due to medical exemptions will be permitted entry with a doctor's note until recognized medical exemptions can be integrated as part of a digital vaccine certificate. Children who are 11 years of age and younger and unable to be vaccinated will also be exempted from these requirements.

July 9, 2021 – The province will be moving into Step Three of the Roadmap to Reopen at 12:01 a.m. on Friday, July 16, 2021. Step Three of the Roadmap focuses on the resumption of additional indoor services with larger numbers of people and restrictions in place. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Outdoor social gatherings and organized public events with up to 100 people with limited exceptions;
- Indoor social gatherings and organized public events with up to 25 people;
- Indoor religious services, rites or ceremonies, including wedding services and funeral services permitted with physical distancing;
- Indoor dining permitted with no limits on the number of patrons per table with physical distancing and other restrictions still in effect;
- Indoor sports and recreational fitness facilities to open subject to a maximum 50 per cent capacity of the indoor space. Capacity for indoor spectators is 50 per cent of the usual seating capacity or 1,000 people, whichever is less. Capacity for outdoor spectators is 75 per cent of the usual seating capacity or 15,000 people, whichever is less;
- Indoor meeting and event spaces permitted to operate with physical distancing and other restrictions still in effect and capacity limited to not exceed 50 per cent capacity or 1,000 people, (whichever is less);
- Essential and non-essential retail with capacity limited to the number of people that can maintain a physical distance of two metres;
- Personal care services, including services requiring the removal of a face covering, with capacity limited to the number of people that can maintain a physical distance of two metres;
- Museums, galleries, historic sites, aquariums, zoos, landmarks, botanical gardens, science centres, casinos/bingo halls, amusement parks, fairs and rural exhibitions, festivals, with capacity limited to not exceed 50 per cent capacity indoors and 75 per cent capacity outdoors;
- Concert venues, cinemas, and theatres permitted to operate at:
 - up to 50 per cent capacity indoors or a maximum limit of 1,000 people for seated events (whichever is less)

- up to 75 per cent capacity outdoors or a maximum limit of 5,000 people for unseated events (whichever is less); and up to 75 per cent capacity outdoors or a maximum of 15,000 people for events with fixed seating (whichever is less).
- Real estate open houses with capacity limited to the number of people that can maintain a physical distance of two metres; and
- Indoor food or drink establishments where dance facilities are provided, including nightclubs and restobars, permitted up to 25 per cent capacity or up to a maximum limit of 250 people (whichever is less).

Face coverings in indoor public settings and physical distancing requirements remain in place throughout Step Three. This is in alignment with the advice on personal public health measures issued by the Public Health Agency of Canada, while also accounting for Ontario specific information and requirements. Face coverings will also be required in some outdoor public settings as well.

June 24, 2021 – With key public health and health care indicators continuing to improve, the provincewide vaccination rate now surpassing the targets outlined in the province’s Roadmap to Reopen, the Ontario government is moving the province into Step Two of its Roadmap to Reopen at 12:01 a.m. on Wednesday, June 30, 2021. Step Two of the Roadmap focuses on the resumption of more outdoor activities and limited indoor services with small numbers of people where face coverings are worn, with other restrictions in place. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Outdoor social gatherings and organized public events with up to 25 people;
- Indoor social gatherings and organized public events with up to 5 people;
- Essential and other select retail permitted at 50 per cent capacity;
- Non-essential retail permitted at 25 per cent capacity;
- Personal care services where face coverings can be worn at all times, and at 25 per cent capacity and other restrictions;
- Outdoor dining with up to 6 people per table, with exceptions for larger households and other restrictions;
- Indoor religious services, rites, or ceremonies, including wedding services and funeral services permitted at up to 25 per cent capacity of the particular room;
- Outdoor fitness classes limited to the number of people who can maintain 3 metres of physical distance;
- Outdoor sports without contact or modified to avoid contact, with no specified limit on number of people or teams participating, with restrictions;
- Overnight camps for children operating in a manner consistent with the safety guidelines produced by the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health;
- Outdoor sport facilities with spectators permitted at 25 per cent capacity;
- Outdoor concert venues, theatres and cinemas, with spectators permitted at 25 per cent capacity;
- Outdoor horse racing and motor speedways, with spectators permitted at 25 per cent capacity;
- Outdoor fairs, rural exhibitions, festivals, permitted at 25 per cent capacity and with other restrictions.

While the province has surpassed Step Three vaccination targets, Ontario may remain in Step Two for a period of approximately 21 days to allow the most recent vaccinations to reach their full effectiveness and to evaluate any impacts of moving to Step Two on key public health and health care indicators.

When it is determined to be safe, the province will promptly move to Step Three of the Roadmap to Reopen.

June 7, 2021 – Based on the provincewide vaccination rate and continuing improvements in key public health and health system indicators, the Ontario government will move the province into Step One of its Roadmap to Reopen at 12:01 a.m. on Friday, June 11, 2021. Step One of the Roadmap to Reopen includes but is not limited to:

- Outdoor social gatherings and organized public events with up to 10 people;
- Outdoor religious services, rites, or ceremonies, including wedding services and funeral services, capped at the number of people that can maintain a physical distance of two metres;
- Indoor religious services, rites, or ceremonies, including wedding services and funeral services permitted at up to 15 per cent capacity of the particular room;
- Non-essential retail permitted at 15 per cent capacity, with no restrictions on the goods that can be sold;
- Essential and other select retail permitted at 25 per cent capacity, with no restrictions on the goods that can be sold;
- Outdoor dining with up to four people per table, with exceptions for larger households;
- Outdoor fitness classes, outdoor groups in personal training and outdoor individual/team sport training to be permitted with up to 10 people, among other restrictions;
- Day camps for children permitted to operate in a manner consistent with the safety guidelines for COVID-19 produced by the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health;
- Overnight camping at campgrounds and campsites, including Ontario Parks, and short-term rentals;
- Concert venues, theatres and cinemas may open outdoors for the purpose of rehearsing or performing a recorded or broadcasted concert, artistic event, theatrical performance or other performance with no more than 10 performers, among other restrictions;
- Outdoor horse racing tracks and motor speedways permitted to operate without spectators; and
- Outdoor attractions such as zoos, landmarks, historic sites, botanical gardens with capacity and other restrictions.

June 1, 2021 – Ontario's Stay-at-Home order will expire on June 2, 2021. When it does, all other public health and workplace measures will remain in place provincewide until Ontario enters Step One of the Roadmap to Reopen, at which point some restrictions will ease with an initial focus on outdoor settings. Ontarians will be able to leave home to travel within the province to a secondary residence for any reason, however, they are not permitted to host members of another household indoors except for a person from another household who lives alone or a caregiver. A simple, easy-to-understand summary of restrictions can be found on the province's ["Reopening Ontario" webpage](#), which provides details on what public health measures are in place before the province enters Step One of the [Roadmap to Reopen](#). As always, anyone who may have been exposed to COVID-19 or who may be exhibiting symptoms of the virus should use the province's [self-assessment tool](#) to determine what they should do next, including getting a test and isolating if necessary.

May 20, 2021 – The Ontario government has released its Roadmap to Reopen, a three-step plan to safely and cautiously reopen the province and gradually lift public health measures based on the provincewide vaccination rate and improvements in key public health and health care indicators. In response to recent improvements to these indicators, Ontario will allow more outdoor recreational

amenities to reopen, with restrictions in place, effective May 22, 2021. Roadmap to Reopen outlines three steps to easing public health measures, guided by the following principles:

- **Step One** An initial focus on resuming outdoor activities with smaller crowds where the risk of transmission is lower and permitting retail with restrictions. This includes allowing outdoor gatherings of up to 10 people, outdoor dining with up to four people per table and non-essential retail at 15 per cent capacity.
- **Step Two** Further expanding outdoor activities and resuming limited indoor services with small numbers of people where face coverings are worn. This includes outdoor gatherings of up to 25 people, outdoor sports and leagues, overnight camps, personal care services where face coverings can be worn and with capacity limits, as well as indoor religious services, rites or ceremony gatherings at 15 per cent capacity.
- **Step Three** Expanding access to indoor settings, with restrictions, including where there are larger numbers of people and where face coverings can't always be worn. This includes indoor sports and recreational fitness; indoor dining, museums, art galleries and libraries, and casinos and bingo halls, with capacity limits.

The province will remain in each step for at least 21 days to evaluate any impacts on key public health and health system indicators. If at the end of the 21 days, the following vaccination thresholds have been met, along with positive trends in other key public health and health system indicators, then the province will move to the next step:

- **Step 1:** 60 per cent of adults vaccinated with one dose.
- **Step 2:** 70 per cent of adults vaccinated with one dose and 20 per cent vaccinated with two doses.
- **Step 3:** 70 to 80 per cent of adults vaccinated with one dose and 25 per cent vaccinated with two doses.

Based on current trends in key health indicators, including the provincial vaccination rate, the government expects to enter Step One of the Roadmap the week of June 14, 2021. The province will confirm closer to the expected start of Step One.

May 13, 2021 – With the new, more contagious variants continuing to pose significant risks, the Ontario government, has extended the Stay-at-Home Order (O. Reg. 265/21) until at least June 2, 2021. All public health and workplace safety measures under the provincewide emergency brake will also remain in effect. During this time, the government will prepare to administer the Pfizer vaccine to youth between the ages of 12 and 17, beginning the week May 31, 2021, as the province also finalizes plans to gradually and safely re-open the province.

May 7, 2021 – The Ontario government has launched the COVID-19 Rapid Screening Initiative for small and medium-sized businesses across the province. The COVID-19 Rapid Screening Initiative will provide free rapid antigen tests for employees of small and medium-sized businesses through participating local chambers of commerce and other organizations. The program will screen for asymptomatic cases of COVID-19 in the workplace that might otherwise be missed, helping to keep workers and their families safe and businesses open. Ontario has already begun delivering rapid testing kits through the [Provincial Antigen Screening](#) Program to workplaces for asymptomatic staff in key sectors such as manufacturing, warehousing, the supply chain, mining, construction and food processing.

May 5, 2021 – With the arrival of increased vaccine deliveries from the federal government starting this week, the Ontario government is further expanding its COVID-19 vaccine distribution plan with the launch of mobile vaccine units for small to medium-sized businesses in hot spot communities. These mobile units will begin offering vaccinations in Toronto, York and Peel at select businesses that have employees who cannot work from home and have a history or risk of outbreaks. Each public health unit will determine the small to medium-sized businesses where mobile units will be deployed.

April 29, 2021 – The Infectious Disease Emergency Leave Pay was passed amending the Employment Standards Act, 2000, and providing certain employees up to three days of Paid Leave for COVID-19 related reasons.

April 28, 2021 – Monte McNaughton, Minister of Labour, Training and Skills Development, to introduce legislation that would, if passed, require employers to provide employees with up to \$200 of pay for up to three days if they are missing work because of COVID-19. This program will be retroactive to April 19, 2021 and effective until September 25, 2021, the date the CRSB will expire. By providing time-limited access to three paid leave days, the province is ensuring employees can pay their bills as they help stop the spread of the virus, including by getting tested, waiting for their results in isolation or going to get their vaccine. The province will partner with the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board to deliver the program and reimburse employers up to \$200 per day for each employee.

April 16, 2021 – The Ontario government is strengthening enforcement of the province's Stay-at-Home order while imposing new travel restrictions and further strengthening public health measures. Effective Saturday, April 17, 2021 police officers and other provincial offences officers will have the authority to require any individual to provide their home address and purpose for not being at their residence. In addition, police officers, special constables and First Nation Constables will have the authority to stop vehicles to inquire about an individual's reasons for leaving their home. This additional enforcement tool will only be in effect during the Stay-at-Home order and exclusively to enforce the Stay-at-Home order.

In order to limit the transmission of the variants of concern, the government is also restricting travel into Ontario from the provinces of Manitoba and Quebec with the exception of purposes such as work, health care services, transportation and delivery of goods and services or exercising Aboriginal or treaty rights. The government also intends to implement the following public health and workplace safety measures:

- Prohibit all outdoor social gatherings and organized public events, except for with members of the same household or one other person from outside that household who lives alone or a caregiver for any member of the household;
- Close all non-essential workplaces in the construction sector;
- Reduce capacity limits to 25 per cent in all retail settings where in-store shopping is permitted. This includes supermarkets, grocery stores, convenience stores, indoor farmers' markets, other stores that primarily sell food and pharmacies; and,
- Close all outdoor recreational amenities, such as golf courses, basketball courts, soccer fields, and playgrounds with limited exceptions.

April 15, 2021 – The Ontario government will begin targeted provincewide inspections of construction sites this Friday, dispatching 200 workplace inspectors, supported by provincial offences officers, to visit 1,300 construction sites to enforce safety requirements. Officers will also be visiting over 500 workplaces, including big box stores, food processors, manufacturers and warehouses, in Ottawa, Toronto and York Region, which have been identified as hot spots for COVID-19.

April 12, 2021 – The Ontario government has made the difficult decision to move elementary and secondary schools to remote learning following the April break. This move has been made in response to the rapid increase in COVID-19 cases, the increasing risks posed to the public by COVID-19 variants, and the massive spike in hospital admissions.

April 11, 2021 – The Ontario government is rapidly increasing capacity in its COVID-19 vaccine rollout with the addition of over 700 pharmacies across the province. These locations will start offering the AstraZeneca vaccine to individuals aged 55 and older throughout this week.

April 7, 2021 – The Ontario government is immediately declaring a third provincial emergency under s 7.0.1 (1) of the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act (EMPCA). These measures are being taken in response to the rapid increase in COVID-19 transmission, the threat on the province's hospital system capacity, and the increasing risks posed to the public by COVID-19 variants. Effective Thursday, April 8, 2021, the government is issuing a province-wide Stay-at-Home order requiring everyone to remain at home except for essential purposes, such as going to the grocery store or pharmacy, accessing health care services (including getting vaccinated), for outdoor exercise, or for work that cannot be done remotely. As Ontario's health care capacity is threatened, the Stay-at-Home order, and other new and existing public health and workplace safety measures will work to preserve public health system capacity, safeguard vulnerable populations, allow for progress to be made with vaccinations and save lives. Further details can be found [here](#).

April 1, 2021 – The Ontario government is imposing a provincewide emergency brake as a result of an alarming surge in case numbers and COVID-19 hospitalizations across the province. The provincewide emergency brake will be effective Saturday, April 3, 2021 and the government intends to keep this in place for at least four weeks. Measures include, but are not limited to:

- Prohibiting indoor organized public events and social gatherings and limiting the capacity for outdoor organized public events or social gatherings to a 5-person maximum, except for gatherings with members of the same household (the people you live with) or gatherings of members of one household and one other person from another household who lives alone.
- Restricting in-person shopping in all retail settings, including a 50 per cent capacity limit for supermarkets, grocery stores, convenience stores, indoor farmers' markets, other stores that primarily sell food and pharmacies, and 25 per cent for all other retail including big box stores, along with other public health and workplace safety measures;
- Prohibiting personal care services;
- Prohibiting indoor and outdoor dining. Restaurants, bars and other food or drink establishments will be permitted to operate by take-out, drive-through, and delivery only;
- Prohibiting the use of facilities for indoor or outdoor sports and recreational fitness (e.g., gyms) with very limited exceptions;
- Requiring day camps to close; and,
- Limiting capacity at weddings, funerals, and religious services, rites or ceremonies to 15 per cent occupancy per room indoors, and to the number of individuals that can maintain two metres of physical distance outdoors. This does not include social gatherings associated with these services such as receptions, which are not permitted indoors and are limited to five people outdoors.

All Ontarians are asked to limit trips outside the home to necessities such as food, medication, medical appointments, supporting vulnerable community members, or exercising outdoors with members of

their household. Employers in all industries should make every effort to allow employees to work from home.

March 26, 2021 – To further support businesses and promote fitness during the pandemic, the government is making limited, targeted adjustments to public health and workplace safety measures in the Grey-Lockdown level of the Framework, allowing the safe resumption of select activities where the risk of COVID-19 transmission can be minimized. This includes:

- Effective Monday, March 29, 2021, permitting outdoor fitness classes, outdoor training for team and individual sports and outdoor personal training, subject to public health and workplace safety measures, including, but not limited to: a maximum of 10 patrons, every person maintaining a physical distance of at least three metres from another person, requiring a reservation and active patron screening.
- Effective Monday, March 29, 2021, permitting marinas and boating clubs to operate clubhouses or any restaurant, bar and other food or drink establishment for outdoor dining, subject to public health and workplace safety measures.
- Effective Monday, April 12, 2021, personal care service settings including but not limited to barber shops, hair and nail salons, and body art establishments, will be permitted to operate at 25 per cent capacity or five patrons (whichever is less) subject to physical distancing, including by appointment only, and other public health and workplace safety measures

March 19, 2021 - The Ontario government is moving eight public health regions to new levels in the COVID-19 Response Framework: Keeping Ontario Safe and Open. The Peel and Toronto Public Health regions will remain in the Grey-Lockdown level at this time.

March 18, 2021 – The Ontario government is investing more than \$12 million in a new initiative to detect COVID-19 in wastewater. The province is partnering with 13 academic and research institutions to create a surveillance network to test wastewater samples taken from communities across Ontario. This will enhance the ability of local public health units to identify, monitor and manage potential COVID-19 outbreaks.

March 17, 2021 - The Ontario government is making it easier for businesses to test for COVID-19 in the workplace by providing guidance to employees who want to self-swab for a rapid antigen point-of-care test on a voluntary basis under the supervision of a trained individual. Based on the success of the initial deployment of rapid antigen testing, the government is also expanding the program to more sectors including first responders, emergency medical services, trucking and transportation, wastewater management, and post-secondary institutions. The province has also removed regulatory barriers governing the use of COVID-19 tests that are approved by Health Canada for point-of-care use to make it easier for organizations to offer onsite testing and support a safe return to work. This change will especially benefit rural and remote communities including Northern Indigenous communities where health professionals required to administer testing are limited.

March 5, 2021 - The Ontario Government is transitioning Toronto, Peel and North Bay Parry Sound District public health regions out of the shutdown and into the revised and strengthened [COVID-19 Response Framework: Keeping Ontario Safe and Open](#) (the "Framework"), with the [Stay-at-Home order](#) no longer in effect. In addition, seven other public health regions are being moved to new levels in the Framework. Based on a general improvement in trends of key indicators, North Bay Parry Sound District will be returning to the Framework at the Red-Control level. Toronto Public Health and Peel

Public Health are also making progress, but as their case rates still remain high, they will return to the Framework at the Grey-Lockdown level. All changes will be effective Monday, March 8, 2021.

February 19, 2021 - the Ontario government is maintaining the shutdown, the [Stay-at-Home order](#) and all existing public health and workplace safety measures for an additional two weeks in the Toronto and Peel Public Health Regions, along with the North Bay-Parry Sound District. The shutdown measures and the Stay-at-Home order will continue to apply until at least Monday, March 8, 2021, based on key public health indicators and following consultation with the local medical officers of health.

February 12, 2021 - The Ontario government is transitioning twenty-seven public health regions out of the shutdown and into a revised and strengthened [COVID-19 Response Framework: Keeping Ontario Safe and Open](#) (the "Framework"), effective Tuesday February 16, 2021 at 12:01 am. The four remaining public health regions, Toronto Public Health, Peel Public Health, York Region Public Health and North Bay Parry Sound District, will remain in the shutdown, and the [Stay-at-Home order](#) and all existing public health and workplace safety measures will continue to apply to these four public health regions until Monday, February 22, 2021.

After returning to the Framework, public health regions will stay in their level for at least two weeks at which time, the government will assess the impact of public health and workplace safety measures to determine if the region should stay where they are or be moved to a different level. Public health regions will move up through the levels, if necessary, based on the set indicators and thresholds outlined in the Framework.

February 11, 2021 - Today, Stephen Lecce, Ontario's Minister of Education, announced the delay of March break until April 12-16, 2021.

February 8, 2021 - In consultation with the Chief Medical Officer of Health, the government is moving to a regional approach and maintaining the shutdown in the majority of the public health regions in Ontario, including the Stay-at-Home order and all existing public health and workplace safety measures. When it is safe to do so, the province will gradually transition each region from the shutdown measures to a revised and strengthened [COVID-19 Response Framework: Keeping Ontario Safe and Open](#) (the "Framework"). The government has updated the Framework to allow for a safer approach to retail. Limited in-person shopping in Grey-Lockdown zones will be permitted with public health and safety measures, such as limiting capacity to 25 per cent in most retail settings. In addition, public health and safety measures in retail settings will be strengthened for other levels of the Framework. Individuals will also be required to wear a face covering and maintain physical distance when indoors in a business, with limited exceptions. The following three regions will be moving back to the Framework at the Green-Prevent level on Wednesday, February 10, 2021 at 12:01 a.m. and will no longer be subject to the Stay-at-Home order: Hastings Prince Edward Public Health; Kingston, Frontenac and Lennox & Addington Public Health; and Renfrew County and District Health Unit.

February 3, 2021 - Today, Education Minister Stephen Lecce announced the dates for the return of in-person learning in all remaining Ontario public health units (PHUs). Elementary and secondary schools in the following PHUs will return to in-person learning on Monday, February 8, 2021:

- Brant County Health Unit
- Chatham-Kent Public Health
- Durham Region Health Department

- Haldimand-Norfolk Health Unit
- Halton Region Public Health
- City of Hamilton Public Health Services
- Huron Perth Public Health
- Lambton Public Health
- Niagara Region Public Health
- Simcoe-Muskoka District Health Unit
- Region of Waterloo Public Health and Emergency Services
- Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health
- Windsor-Essex County Health Unit

Elementary and secondary schools in the following PHUs will return to in-person learning on Tuesday, February 16, 2021:

- Peel Public Health
- Toronto Public Health
- York Region Public Health

February 1, 2021 - The Ontario government is providing an additional \$381 million to keep schools safe from COVID-19. Although transmission in schools has been low, this funding will be used to improve air quality and ventilation in schools, support online learning, promote student mental health and hire additional staff. With this new funding, schools will have been provided with more than \$1.6 billion to better protect students, staff, and families. To support their safe return, and on the best advice of experts, Ontario is introducing additional measures to further protect students and staff, including:

- Provincewide access to targeted asymptomatic testing for students and staff, using a combination of lab-processed PCR and rapid antigen tests;
- Mandatory masking for students in Grades 1-3, including outdoors where physical distancing cannot be maintained;
- Enhanced screening of secondary students and staff;
- New guidance discouraging students from congregating before and after school; and
- Temporary certification of eligible teacher candidates who are set to graduate in 2021 to stabilize staffing levels, following high levels of absenteeism.

January 29, 2021 - The Ontario government is taking immediate and decisive action to stop the spread of new COVID-19 variants throughout the province. It is implementing a six-point plan which includes mandatory on-arrival testing of international travellers, enhanced screening and sequencing to identify the new variants, maintaining public health measures to keep people safe, strengthening case and contact management to track the spread of new cases, enhanced protections for vulnerable populations, and leveraging the latest data to inform public health decisions.

January 28, 2021 - On the advice of the Chief Medical Officer of Health, with the support of the local Medical Officers of Health, and with the introduction of additional layers of protection, 280,000 students in four public health regions will return to class on Monday, February 1. The four additional PHUs are: Eastern Ontario Health Unit, Middlesex-London Health Unit, Southwestern Public Health, Ottawa Public Health.

January 21, 2021 - The Ontario government announced today that COVID-19 isolation centers are opening this week in Oshawa and Brampton and two isolation centers serving the City of Toronto are expanding. These new centers and expansions are in addition to existing centers in the City of Ottawa,

and the regions of Peel and Waterloo. This is part of the province's investment of up to \$42 million under the High Priority Communities Strategy to help people in some of the hardest hit neighborhoods self-isolate and keep their families and communities safe. All new and expanded centers are expected to be open by the end of January 2021. COVID-19 isolation centers provide a range of wraparound supports and services, including meals, security, transportation, and links to health and social services.

January 20, 2021 – The Minister of Education, on the advice from the Chief Medical Officer of Health, is allowing many public health units and over 100,000 students to return to class on Monday, January 25. Elementary and secondary students in Windsor-Essex, Region of Peel, Toronto, York Region and Hamilton PHUs will continue to learn remotely. The Ministry of Education, in consultation with the Chief Medical Officer of Health, will continue to closely monitor public health trends in these regions.

To ensure schools remain safe, the government is introducing additional measures including provincewide targeted asymptomatic testing, enhanced screening, mandatory masking for students in Grades 1-3 and outdoors where physical distancing cannot be maintained.

January 12, 2021 - In response to a doubling in COVID-19 cases over the past two weeks, the Ontario government is immediately declaring a second provincial emergency under s 7.0.1 (1) of the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act* (EMPCA). Effective Thursday, January 14, 2021 at 12:01 a.m., the government is issuing a stay-at-home order requiring everyone to remain at home with exceptions for essential purposes, such as going to the grocery store or pharmacy, accessing health care services, for exercise or for essential work. In addition to limiting outings to essential trips, all businesses must ensure that any employee who can work from home, does work from home. The government will enact the following additional public health measures:

- Outdoor organized public gatherings and social gatherings are further restricted to a limit of five people with limited exceptions. This is consistent with the rules during the lockdown during the first wave of COVID-19 in spring 2020 and will allow individuals and families to enjoy time outdoors safely.
- Individuals are required to wear a mask or face covering in the indoor areas of businesses or organizations that are open. Wearing a mask or face covering is now recommended outdoors when you can't physically distance more than two metres.
- All non-essential retail stores, including hardware stores, alcohol retailers, and those offering curbside pickup or delivery, must open no earlier than 7 a.m. and close no later than 8 p.m. The restricted hours of operation do not apply to stores that primarily sell food, pharmacies, gas stations, convenience stores, and restaurants for takeout or delivery.
- Non-essential construction is further restricted, including below-grade construction, exempting survey.

These measures will come into effect between Tuesday January 12, 2021 and Thursday, January 14, 2021, including the provincial declaration of emergency under the EMCPA, orders under that Act, and amendments to regulations under the *Reopening Ontario (A Flexible Response to COVID-19) Act, 2020*.

January 7, 2021 - As COVID-19 cases continue to rise at an alarming rate throughout the province, the Ontario government is extending certain measures to keep students, education staff, and residents of Northern Ontario safe. This includes extending online teacher-led learning until January 25, 2021 for elementary school students in the 27 Southern Ontario public health unit regions and extending the shutdown in Northern Ontario for another 14 days, aligning with the shutdown period in Southern Ontario. To support families during this extended school closure, childcare centers, and home-based

childcare services will remain open. Ontario is also expanding eligibility for the Ministry of Education's targeted emergency childcare program for a broader number of frontline health and safety workers.

January 6, 2021 - The Ontario government is launching a new voluntary and free border testing pilot program at Toronto Pearson International Airport for eligible international travelers returning to Ontario to help quickly identify and stop the spread of COVID-19 in the province. Eligible travelers will be able pre-register for the program or proceed to get tested when they arrive at the airport. Those choosing to participate in the pilot will receive a free, self-collected lab-based polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test and be supervised by a health care provider either in-person or by video as the traveler self-administers the test. Switch Health, a health service provider, will provide the monitored self-swabbing tests in a convenient and dedicated space in the airport. Test results will be reported into Ontario's Lab Information System within 48 hours and local public health units will follow up on all positive tests. All international travelers will continue to be required to follow the federal requirement for a mandatory 14-day quarantine after arriving or returning to Canada, regardless if they have a negative or positive test.

December 22, 2020 - The province is expanding the Support for Learners program to include secondary school students and lowering electricity prices to a discounted off-peak rate 24/7 for all time-of-use and tiered customers. In January 2021, students aged 13 through Grade 12 will be eligible for funding under an expanded Support for Learners program. Parents or guardians will receive a one-time payment of \$200 per eligible student to help offset education expenses. Support will be available for those who attend a public or private school or who are homeschooled. To support people as they stay home during the Provincewide Shutdown, the government will hold electricity prices to the off-peak rate of 8.5 cents per kilowatt-hour for all time-of-use and tiered customers on a temporary basis starting January 1, 2021. This low rate will be available 24 hours per day, seven days a week for a 28-day period. The off-peak price will automatically be applied to bills of all residential, small business, and farm customers who pay regulated rates.

December 21, 2020 - The Ontario government is imposing a Provincewide Shutdown. Additional restrictions will be put into place and reinforce that Ontarians should stay at home as much as possible to minimize transmission of the virus and prevent hospitals from becoming overwhelmed. The Provincewide Shutdown will go into effect as of Saturday, December 26, 2020, at 12:01 a.m. Measures include, but are not limited to:

- Restricting indoor organized public events and social gatherings, except with members of the same household (the people you live with). Individuals who live alone may consider having exclusive close contact with one other household.
- Prohibiting in-person shopping in most retail settings - curbside pickup and delivery can continue. Discount and big box retailers selling groceries will be limited to 25 per cent capacity for in-store shopping. Supermarkets, grocery stores and similar stores that primarily sell food, as well as pharmacies, will continue to operate at 50 per cent capacity for in-store shopping.
- Restricting indoor access to shopping malls - patrons may only go to a designated indoor pickup area (by appointment only), essential retail stores that are permitted to be open (e.g. pharmacy, grocery store), or, subject to physical distancing and face covering requirements, to the food court for takeout purchases. Shopping malls may also establish outdoor designated pickup areas.
- Prohibiting indoor and outdoor dining. Restaurants, bars and other food or drink establishments will be permitted to operate by take out, drive-through, and delivery only.

- Limit inter-provincial travel to essential only, with 14-day isolation upon arrival. Advised to stay home as much as possible with trips outside the home limited to necessities such as food, medication, medical appointments, or supporting vulnerable community members.
- Employers in all industries are asked to make every effort to allow employees to work from home.

The government is also providing \$12.5 million to implement a High Priority Communities Strategy to contain the virus in high-risk communities. The strategy will take a tailored, community-based approach to fund community agencies in 15 priority communities in the York, Peel, Durham, Ottawa, and Toronto regions. The funding will also allow for the hiring of community ambassadors to make people aware of available services and assistance, for coordination of increased testing opportunities and for the arrangement of wraparound supports for those who are COVID-positive. Additional funding of \$42 million will also be available to establish isolation centres.

December 14, 2020 - Effective December 11, 2020, individuals requesting a COVID-19 test for international travel clearance are no longer eligible for a publicly funded COVID-19 test in Ontario. This step is being taken to ensure taxpayer dollars are appropriately allocated to key priorities and to preserve capacity within the provincially funded COVID-19 testing network. The province continues to provide testing to anyone who needs a test per provincial testing guidelines at no cost. This includes people who are symptomatic, or people who have been in contact with someone who has symptoms.

December 8, 2020 - The Ontario government introduced the *Workplace Safety and Insurance Amendment Act, 2020* that would, if passed, protect employers from an unexpected increase in Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) premiums, while maintaining an increase to the maximum earnings cap for worker benefits. The loss of jobs among lower wage workers, including those in the retail, hospitality and the service sector, during the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in an increase in the average industrial wage (AIG) of Ontario workers by 7.8 per cent, compared to an average increase of 2-3 per cent. The proposed amendment would limit the impact the increase the AIG has on WSIB premiums to 2 per cent, making sure struggling business owners aren't subject to sudden undue costs during these challenging times. Additionally, this new amendment will not impact the 7.8 per cent increase in the earning cap for workers, ensuring they will continue to be fairly compensated for work-related injuries and occupational diseases during the COVID-19 pandemic.

December 7, 2020 - The Ontario government is ready to distribute COVID-19 vaccines as soon as they are received, beginning with vaccinating vulnerable populations and those who care for them. Groups receiving the early vaccine doses in the first few months of the Ontario immunization program will include:

- Residents, staff, essential caregivers, and other employees of congregate living settings (e.g., long-term care homes and retirement homes) that provide care for seniors as they are at higher risk of infection and serious illness from COVID-19;
- Health care workers, including hospital employees, other staff who work or study in hospitals, and other health care personnel;
- Adults in Indigenous communities, including remote communities where risk of transmission is high; and
- Adult recipients of chronic home health care.

Ontario will also be prioritizing the rollout of the vaccine in regions with the highest rates of COVID-19 infection, including those in the Red-Control and Lockdown zones. The immunization program will focus on healthcare workers and the most vulnerable populations in those regions.

December 4, 2020 – The Ontario government is planning to invest \$13.5 billion to help individuals, families and workers who need it most to navigate the second wave of COVID 19 and beyond. This funding includes \$600 million in relief to support eligible businesses required to close or significantly restrict services due to enhanced public health measures, doubling its initial commitment.

In addition, our government is providing tax relief for small businesses, including a proposal to provide municipalities with the ability to cut property taxes for small businesses, reducing business education taxes and permanently increasing the Employer Health Tax payroll exemption to \$1 million. This would mean 90 per cent of employers would pay no EHT.

November 26, 2020 - The Ontario government is providing \$13.6 million to enable school boards to hire more teachers and staff in regions recently moved to the Red-Control level and providing stabilization funding for school boards, if needed. The province is also expanding testing in school communities and launching new online learning portals. These initiatives will enhance safety measures for schools and alleviate potential budget shortfalls during COVID-19.

Ontario is launching targeted voluntary testing of asymptomatic students and staff in regions of the province which currently have a high number of active COVID-19 cases. The Ministry of Education, along with the Ministry of Health and Ontario Health, are working with participating school boards and local public health units to support implementation. This initiative will make it easier to track and prevent the spread of COVID-19 in schools. It may also inform public health decisions and help to manage outbreaks.

November 24, 2020 - The Ontario government has deployed new COVID-19 rapid tests to provide faster results in regions of high transmission and rural and remote areas. As an additional tool to help keep essential workers safe, rapid tests will also be used to screen staff in long-term care homes and select workplaces. These new tests will provide Ontarians with more access to innovative testing options and will help to quickly identify and manage outbreaks to stop the spread of COVID-19.

November 20, 2020 - The Ontario government, in consultation with the Chief Medical Officer of Health, has extended all orders currently in force under the *Reopening Ontario (A Flexible Response to COVID-19) Act, 2020* (ROA) until December 21, 2020. The province is moving certain public health unit regions to new levels in the [Keeping Ontario Safe and Open Framework](#), which includes moving Toronto and Peel into Lockdown. These necessary measures are being taken to limit community transmission of COVID-19 in order to keep schools open, safeguard health system capacity, and protect the province's most vulnerable populations. Measures under Lockdown include, but are not limited to:

- Schools, before and after school programs, and childcare will remain open;
- Post-secondary schools open for virtual learning with some limited exceptions for training that can only be provided in-person, such as clinical training or training related to a trade;
- No indoor organized public events or social gatherings except with members of the same household. Individuals who live alone, including seniors, may consider having exclusive, close contact with one other person;
- Outdoor organized public events or social gatherings limited to a maximum of 10 people;
- Wedding services, funeral services and religious services, rites or ceremonies where physical distancing can be maintained can have up to 10 people indoors or 10 people outdoors;
- Retail permitted to be open for curbside pick-up or delivery only, with certain exceptions such as for supermarkets, grocery stores, pharmacies, hardware stores, discount and big box retailers

selling groceries, beer, wine and liquor stores, safety supply stores, and convenience stores, which will be allowed to operate at 50 per cent capacity;

- Restaurants, bars, and food and drink establishments will only be able to provide takeout, drive-through and delivery. Indoor and outdoor dining services are prohibited;
- Personal care services closed;
- Casinos, bingo halls and other gaming establishments closed; and
- Indoor sports and recreational facilities, including pools, closed with limited exceptions.

November 13, 2020 - The Ontario government is taking immediate action to respond to the rapid increase in COVID-19 cases and is updating the [Keeping Ontario Safe and Open Framework](#), by lowering the thresholds for each level in the framework. These necessary updates will help limit the spread of COVID-19 while keeping schools open, maintaining health system capacity, protecting the province's most vulnerable, and avoiding broader lockdowns. The framework changes are in response to the current data and trends, and will lower the threshold for each of the five levels for: weekly incidence rates, positivity rate, effective reproductive number (Rt), outbreak trends and the level of community transmission.

November 9, 2020 - The Ontario government is taking immediate action to enhance the local public health response to COVID-19 in Peel Region by expanding access to testing as well as increasing case and contact management and hospital capacity. In response to the increased need for local COVID-19 testing, Ontario is providing more sites and innovative options. Ontario is also exploring opportunities to engage with community leaders to help promote awareness of the importance of COVID-19 testing and to develop culturally and linguistically sensitive targeted communications to encourage testing in the region. To support hospital capacity pressures and the continuation of surgeries and procedures, Ontario is investing \$42 million for up to 234 new beds at three hospitals and their alternate health facilities in Peel Region.

November 7, 2020 – Due to a worsening pandemic picture, Dr. Lawrence Loh, Medical Officer of Health for the [Region of Peel](#), today issued directives to the community that are stricter than those required for the Red – Control stage. The measures in the directive will help stop the spread of COVID-19 and are effective at 12:01 a.m. Nov. 9, 2020, unless otherwise noted. They will remain in effect until further notice, except where noted, and will be re-evaluated every 14 days as the pandemic picture evolves:

- Social gatherings celebrating holidays and life events in business establishments are not allowed, starting at 12:01 a.m. Nov. 13, 2020.
- Wedding receptions and associated gatherings are not allowed, starting at 12:01 a.m. Nov. 13 until at least Jan. 7, 2021.
- Religious services, rites or ceremonies should be virtual. When not possible, in-person religious events, including weddings and funerals, must:
 - Reduce indoor capacity to 30% capacity to a maximum 50 people per facility.
 - Seat households and essential supports together, at least 2 metres from other groups.
- Bars, restaurants and other food establishments must restrict seating to people from the same household, or their essential supports. No mixed seating is permitted.
- Workplaces must prohibit all non-essential visitors and make work-from-home options available, as much as possible.
- Gyms and fitness centres must make sure all fitness class participants pre-register and provide accurate contact information to help with contact tracing if there is an exposure. No walk-in participation is allowed.
- Meeting and event spaces, including banquet halls, must close.

- Residents of Peel must restrict their contact to members of their household and essential supports only. Those that live alone may join one designated household.
- Residents of Peel should not visit any other household or allow visitors to their homes or yards, except for emergency reasons, including medical and repairs, renovations or construction, deliveries and one-on-one tutoring. Proper precautions must always be used in these situations, including mask wearing, distancing, hand hygiene, and isolating if sick.

All additional measures have been put in place under the authority of Ontario Regulation 263/20, Rules for Areas in Stage 2, s.2(2) (or as current).

November 3, 2020 - In consultation with the Chief Medical Officer of Health and other health experts, the Ontario government has developed the [Keeping Ontario Safe and Open Framework](#). It ensures that public health measures are targeted, incremental and responsive to help limit the spread of COVID-19, while keeping schools and businesses open, maintaining health system capacity and protecting vulnerable people, including those in long-term care.

The framework takes a gradual approach that includes introducing preventative measures earlier to help avoid broader closures and allow for additional public health and workplace safety measures to be introduced or removed incrementally. It categorizes public health unit regions into five levels: Green-Prevent, Yellow-Protect, Orange-Restrict, Red-Control, and Lockdown being a measure of last and urgent resort. Each level outlines the types of public health and workplace safety measures for businesses and organizations. These include targeted measures for specific sectors, institutions and other settings.

Going forward, the government will continually assess the impact of public health measures applied to public health unit regions for 28 days, or two COVID-19 incubation periods.

October 21, 2020 - The Ontario government is providing \$24.3 million in targeted investments to hire additional staff, increase access to counselling and therapy, create new programs to help manage stress, depression and anxiety, and address eating disorders and other challenges facing children and youth. This funding is part of the government's \$176 million investment in the [Roadmap to Wellness](#), a comprehensive plan to build a fully connected mental health and addictions system across the province.

October 16, 2020 - The Ontario government is introducing additional health measures for York Region. This public health region will be subject to modified Stage 2 restrictions for a minimum of 28 days and will be reviewed on an ongoing basis. Effective Monday, October 19, 2020 at 12:01 a.m., York Region will join Ottawa, Peel and Toronto public health regions in a modified Stage 2, as a result of their trends in public health indicators, including higher than average rates of COVID-19 transmission.

In addition to the measures being implemented in the Ottawa, Peel, Toronto and York Regions, the Chief Medical Officer of Health continues to remind all Ontarians to:

- Limit trips outside of home, except for essential purposes such as work where it is not possible to work from home, school, grocery shopping, medical appointments, and outdoor healthy physical activity;
- Stay home if unwell, even with mild symptoms;
- Limit travel to other regions in the province, especially from higher transmission to lower transmission areas, for essential purposes only;
- Practise physical distancing of at least two metres with those outside your household;
- Wear a face covering when physical distancing is a challenge or where it is mandatory to do so;

- Wash your hands frequently and thoroughly; and
- Follow social gathering and organized public event limits.

For additional protection, the Ontario government is encouraging everyone to download the new COVID Alert app on their smart phone from the Apple and Google Play app stores.

October 13, 2020 - The Ontario government is helping to keep the cost of energy low for families, small businesses and farmers by keeping electricity rates stable and providing customers with more choice and energy assistance programs. Customers eligible for the [Ontario Electricity Rebate \(OER\)](#) will automatically receive a 33.2% reduction off their energy bill when [new electricity rates](#) for Regulated Price Plan (RPP) customers come into effect November 1, 2020. At the same time, customers paying Time-of-Use (TOU) rates under the RPP will also have the option to switch to tiered rate pricing. Time-of-use electricity rates vary by time of day and are comprised of three different rate periods of off-peak, mid-peak and on-peak pricing. Tiered electricity rates provide customers with a set rate for electricity up to a certain level of consumption.

The province has also revised the eligibility requirements for the COVID-19 Energy Assistance Program (CEAP) and the COVID-19 Energy Assistance Program for Small Business (CEAP-SB). Households, small businesses and charitable organizations who made partial payments on amounts owing before the COVID-19 emergency period are now eligible for the CEAP and CEAP-SB one-time on-bill credit to help pay down electricity bill debt. The expanded eligibility also eliminates the requirement for residential consumers to be unemployed when applying for CEAP. Local utilities will re-assess previously rejected applications and start accepting new applications on October 16, 2020.

Ontario is also introducing a new streamlined Energy Affordability Program (EAP) for households struggling to pay their electricity bills. Beginning the week of January 4, 2021, EAP will:

- Provide free electricity saving measures to help participating households manage their electricity-use and lower their electricity costs by up to \$1,000 per year;
- Tailor energy-efficiency upgrades based on household income, home heating system, location, and an energy needs assessment; and,
- Simplify access to new and updated electricity saving measures through a single program that replaces the Affordability Fund Trust and Home Assistance Program, which are ending in 2020.

October 9, 2020 - The Ontario government is introducing additional targeted public health measures in the Ottawa, Peel, and Toronto public health unit regions. These modified Stage 2 restrictions will be for a minimum of 28 days and reviewed on an ongoing basis. Effective Saturday, October 10, 2020 at 12:01 a.m., these targeted measures are being implemented in as a result of their higher than average rates of transmission. Measures under a modified Stage 2 include:

- Reducing limits for all social gatherings and organized public events to a maximum of 10 people indoors and 25 people outdoors where physical distancing can be maintained. The two limits may not be combined for an indoor-outdoor event;
- Prohibiting indoor food and drink service in restaurants, bars and other food and drink establishments, including nightclubs and food court areas in malls;
- Closing of:
 - Indoor gyms and fitness centres (i.e., exercise classes and weight and exercise rooms);
 - Casinos, bingo halls and other gaming establishments;
 - Indoor cinemas;
 - Performing arts centres and venues;
 - Spectator areas in racing venues;

- Interactive exhibits or exhibits with high risk of personal contact in museums, galleries, zoos, science centres, landmarks, etc.;
- Prohibiting personal care services where face coverings must be removed for the service (e.g. makeup application, beard trimming);
- Reducing the capacity limits for:
 - Tour and guide services to 10 people indoors and 25 people outdoors
 - Real estate open houses to 10 people indoors, where physical distancing can be maintained.
 - In-person teaching and instruction (e.g. cooking class) to 10 people indoors and 25 people outdoors, with exemptions for schools, child care centres, universities, colleges of applied arts and technology, private career colleges, the Ontario Police College, etc.
 - Meeting and event spaces to 10 people indoors and 25 people outdoors, and
- Limiting team sports to training sessions (no games or scrimmages).

Schools, child care centres, and places of worship will remain open in these communities and must continue to follow the public health measures in place. Before-school and after-school programs will also be exempt from these new restrictions.

October 5, 2020 - the Ontario government is announcing the allocation of \$35 million to provide additional immediate school board supports in the communities of Peel, Ottawa, Toronto and York Region to enhance public health measures and protection strategies as they confront higher rates of transmission in their communities. To further enhance the safety of students and staff, this funding will be used for:

- Providing increased distancing between students through the hiring of additional teachers, early childhood educators, and educational assistants; and
- Providing increased remote learning supports, including the hiring of additional teachers, early childhood educators and educational assistants, as well as devices for students who have chosen to learn remotely.

October 2, 2020 – The government is taking additional steps to respond to the second wave of COVID-19 and prevent and stop the spread of the virus, while safely keeping schools and businesses open. These include:

- Transitioning to appointment-based testing at Ontario assessment centres beginning Tuesday, October 6, 2020;
- Beginning on Sunday, October 4, 2020, assessment centres will discontinue walk-in testing services;
- Continuing mobile testing and pop-up testing centres to reach vulnerable populations and provide targeted testing for long-term care, congregate care, and other vulnerable populations;
- Expanding the number of pharmacies where people with no symptoms within provincial testing guidance can get tested; and
- Implementing updated testing guidance for children to help parents determine when it is most appropriate for students, children and their families to seek a test for COVID-19.

Ontario is also taking longer-term actions to increase the province's test processing capacity so people can get their results faster, including:

- Increasing testing and processing capacity to 50,000 tests per day by mid-October and 68,000 tests per day by mid-November; and
- Introducing new testing methods once they are approved by Health Canada, including point of care testing and antigen testing.

Targeted measures will also be implemented in Ottawa, Peel, and Toronto as a result of their higher than average rates of transmission. These include:

- Setting an indoor capacity limit to restrict occupancy at restaurants, bars and other food and drink establishments (including nightclubs) to the number of patrons who can maintain a physical distance of at least two metres from every other patron, to a maximum of 100 patrons, permitting no more than six patrons per table, requiring operators to ensure patrons lining up or congregating outside of their establishment maintain physical distancing, and mandating that the name and contact information for each patron be collected;
- Restricting group exercise classes at gyms and other fitness settings to 10 individuals, as well as restricting the total number of people allowed at these facilities to a maximum of 50; and
- Setting a limit on the number of people allowed at meeting and event facilities, including banquet halls, to six people per table and 50 people per facility.

October 1, 2020 – In consultation with the Chief Medical Officer of Health, the Ontario government is updating its COVID-19 school and childcare screening guidance. This additional information will help parents determine when it is most appropriate for students, children and their families to seek a test for COVID-19. The screening guidance is being updated with two sets of questions about symptoms and information to help parents make informed decisions about whether their children should attend school or child care, need to consult a health care provider, or get tested for COVID-19. The guidance can be found immediately at the [COVID-19 Screening Tool for Children in School and Child Care](#), and the refreshed online tool will launch on Friday, October 2 for download. The first set of questions asks about symptoms such as fever or cough. Students and children with any of these symptoms will still be advised to stay home until they are able to consult with a health care provider and receive an alternative diagnosis or a negative COVID-19 test.

The second set of questions asks about other symptoms that are commonly associated with other illnesses, such as a runny nose or headache:

- Students and children with only one of these symptoms will be advised to stay home for 24 hours, after which they can return to school or childcare if their symptoms are improving.
- Students and children with two or more of these symptoms will be advised to stay home until they are able to consult with a health care provider and receive an alternative diagnosis or a negative COVID-19 test.

In addition, based on the latest public health guidance the symptom list for children in school and childcare no longer includes abdominal pain or conjunctivitis (pink eye).

The Ontario government is supporting personal support workers (PSWs) and direct support workers in the home and community care, long-term care, public hospitals, and social services sectors by investing \$461 million to temporarily enhance wages. This investment will help the province attract and retain the workforce needed to care for patients, clients and residents in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

September 30, 2020 - The Ontario government released updated COVID-19 modelling, which shows the province is experiencing a second surge in cases similar to what other jurisdictions have experienced. Key highlights from the modelling update include:

- Ontario is currently on an upward trajectory similar to what its peer jurisdictions, including Victoria, Australia and Michigan in the United States, have experienced.
- Cases are currently doubling approximately every 10 to 12 days.
- The growth in cases was initially in the 20 to 39 age group but now cases are climbing in all age groups.

- Forecasting suggests that Ontario could be around 1,000 cases per day in the first half of October.
- Intensive Care Unit (ICU) occupancy is currently steady, but it is predicted that admissions will likely rise with an increase in COVID-19 patients being hospitalized.
- Ontario may see between 200 and 300 patients with COVID-19 in ICU beds per day if cases continue to grow.
- In order to reduce the spread and the number of new cases, it remains critical that Ontarians continue to adhere to public health measures, including avoiding large gatherings, physical distancing and wearing a face covering.

The Ontario government has developed a \$2.8 billion COVID-19 fall preparedness plan to ensure the province's health care, long-term care and education systems are prepared for the immediate challenges of the fall, including a second wave of COVID-19 and the upcoming flu season. [Keeping Ontarians Safe: Preparing for Future Waves of COVID-19](#) will enable the province to quickly identify, prevent and respond to surges and waves of the virus to protect the health and safety of all Ontarians. The plan focuses on six key areas to rapidly identify and respond to COVID-19 outbreaks and surges, build health system capacity, and reinforce the province's health care workforce. These areas are:

1. Maintaining strong public health measures, including continued expansion of testing and case and contact management:
2. Implementing the largest flu immunization campaign in Ontario's history:
3. Quickly identifying, managing and preventing COVID-19 outbreaks:
4. Accelerating efforts to reduce health service backlogs:
5. Preparing for surges in COVID-19 cases:
6. Recruiting, retaining, training and supporting health care workers, while also continuing to engage families and caregivers:

September 26, 2020 - Ontario continues to see increasing numbers of COVID-19 cases in what may be a second wave of the virus. As a result, on Saturday, September 26, 2020, pre-entry COVID screening of all workers and "essential visitors" became mandatory for all businesses in Ontario – effective immediately- regardless of sector. To be clear, the new screening requirement does not include temperature testing and does not apply to customers or patrons of businesses that serve the public directly (e.g. retailers, hospitality, etc.). There are no changes with respect to workers who are working from home. However, all businesses that workers are attending are required to establish some method of pre-entry screening for COVID-19 symptoms and exposure risks. The regulation and recommendations do not set requirements for implementation of the pre-entry screening. Employers, constructors, and property owners, therefore, have some flexibility to implement the screening in a manner that is as efficient as possible for the workplaces for which they are responsible.

September 25, 2020 - Over the past five weeks, Ontario has experienced an increase in the rate of new COVID-19 cases. Private social gatherings continue to be a significant source of transmission in many local communities, along with outbreak clusters in restaurants, bars, and other food and drink establishments, including strip clubs, with most cases in the 20-39 age group. To ensure the continued health and safety of Ontarians, reduce the risk of transmission, and limit future outbreaks of COVID-19, an amended order will apply province-wide effective 12:01 a.m. on Saturday September 26 and will:

- Apply additional measures and restrictions to restaurants, bars and other food and drink establishments (including nightclubs) by prohibiting the sale of alcohol after 11 p.m., and prohibiting the consumption of alcohol on the premises after 12:00 a.m. until 9:00 a.m.

(including employees), and requiring establishments to close by 12:00 a.m. and remain closed until 5:00 a.m. except for takeout or delivery;

- Close all strip clubs across the province; and
- Require businesses or organizations to comply with any advice, [recommendations](#), and instructions issued by the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health on screening for COVID-19.

In addition, the province will work with the municipal sector and other partners to encourage increased enforcement of existing businesses, facilities, workplaces, etc. to comply with all public health and workplace safety measures and restrictions in the Stage 3 regulation.

September 23, 2020 - The Ontario government is providing people with convenient and timely access to free COVID-19 testing at pharmacies in the province. As of Friday, up to 60 pharmacies in Ontario will begin offering testing by appointment only, with further locations coming online in the coming weeks. This initiative will expand testing capacity well beyond the province's 150 assessment centres. Individuals, within provincial testing guidance, will be able to visit select pharmacies by appointment only, and they will be pre-screened and then tested at no charge. When visiting a pharmacy Ontarians should continue to follow COVID-19 public health measures, including wearing a face covering, frequent handwashing, and maintaining physical distance from those outside their household or social circle.

September 22, 2020 - The Ontario government is implementing the largest flu immunization campaign in Ontario's history. The campaign is part of the province's comprehensive plan to prepare the health system for a second wave of COVID-19. The annual spread of the flu presents an additional challenge to Ontario's response to future waves of COVID-19. That's why the province is investing almost \$70 million to purchase flu vaccines to deliver a robust and expanded campaign this year. Ontario has implemented several measures, such as:

- Ordering 5.1 million flu vaccine doses in partnership with the federal government and other provinces and territories, 700,000 more than the approximated usage last year. This includes 1.3 million high-dose vaccine doses for Ontario seniors, especially those with pre-existing health conditions;
- Prioritizing early distribution of the flu vaccine for vulnerable populations in long-term care homes, hospitals and retirement homes;
- Investing an additional \$26.5 million to purchase additional flu vaccine doses if required and made available through the national vaccine bulk procurement program;
- For the first time in Ontario's history, improving access by allocating high-dose flu vaccines for seniors to participating pharmacies; and
- Launching a public education campaign to encourage getting the flu shot.

The flu shot will be available in the coming weeks at primary care provider offices and public health units for anyone over the age of six months, and participating pharmacies for anyone five years of age or older. When getting the flu shot, Ontarians should continue to follow COVID-19 public health measures, including wearing a face covering, frequent handwashing, and maintaining physical distance from those outside their household or social circle.

September 19, 2020 - The Ontario government, in consultation with the Chief Medical Officer of Health and the Public Health Measures Table, is reducing limits on the number of people permitted to attend unmonitored and private social gatherings across the entire province. Unmonitored and private social gatherings include functions, parties, dinners, gatherings, BBQs or wedding receptions held in private residences, backyards, parks and other recreational areas. The new limit on the number of people allowed to attend an unmonitored private social gathering across the province is:

- 10 people at an indoor event or gathering (previous limit of 50); or
- 25 people at an outdoor event or gathering (previous limit of 100).

Indoor and outdoor events and gatherings cannot be merged together. Gatherings of 35 (25 outdoors and 10 indoors) are not permitted. These new limits are effective immediately.

September 17, 2020 – In consultation with the Chief Medical Officer of Health, local medical officers of health and local municipal leaders, the Ontario government has amended order [O. Reg 364/20](#), setting a new limit reducing the number of people permitted to attend unmonitored social gatherings and organized public events in three regions experiencing higher rates of transmission of COVID-19. This includes functions, parties, dinners, gatherings, BBQs or wedding receptions held in private residences, backyards, parks and other recreational areas. To help prevent the spread of COVID-19, the amended order will set a new limit on the number of people allowed to attend an unmonitored social gathering or organized public event in three specific regions to:

- 10 people at an indoor event or gathering (previous limit of 50); or
- 25 people at an outdoor event or gathering (previous limit of 100).

Indoor and outdoor events and gatherings cannot be merged together. These are not accumulative and gatherings of 35 (25 outdoors and 10 indoors) are not permitted. The new limits will only apply to persons within the boundaries of the following public health units: Ottawa Public Health; Peel Public Health; and Toronto Public Health. This amended order will come into effect on September 18 at 12:01am. The new limits will not apply to events or gatherings held in staffed businesses and facilities, such as bars, restaurants, cinemas, convention centres or banquet halls, gyms, and recreational sporting or performing art events. Existing rules, including public health and workplace safety measures, for these businesses and facilities continue to be in effect.

The Ontario government has introduced the *Helping Tenants and Small Businesses Act* that would, if passed, freeze rent in 2021 for most rent-controlled and non-rent-controlled residential units. The bill would provide the vast majority of Ontario's tenants with financial relief as the province continues down the path of renewal, growth and economic recovery.

September 16, 2020 - The Ontario government launched a [new voluntary interactive screening tool](#) to assist parents, students and staff with the daily assessment of COVID-19 symptoms and risk factors that is required before attending school. The results will let parents, students, and education staff know whether they should attend school each day or guide at-risk individuals to proper resources. This tool is another layer of prevention that the province is using to protect the health and safety of students, staff, and the communities where they live and work.

September 11, 2020 - Today, the government is launching a [webpage to report COVID-19 cases in schools and child care centres](#). This page will be updated every weekday with the most up-to-date COVID-19 information available, including a summary of cases in schools and licensed child care centres and agencies, if a COVID-19 case is confirmed at your school and where the numbers come from.

September 10, 2020 - Ontario is investing over \$2.9 million to fund eight research projects that aim to support Ontario's response to COVID-19. These projects will focus on a wide variety of areas such as supporting the mental health and well-being of families and children, assessing the long-term health effects of COVID-19, the development of an app to better manage the care of patients, and an evaluation of the effectiveness of wearing masks to block the virus. These research projects will inform the health response to COVID-19 and ensure patients continue to receive quality care for their physical and mental wellness.

September 8, 2020 - As part of the government's commitment to safely reopen schools, Ontario is providing up to \$1.3 billion in supports for the education sector. Key investments include:

- \$100 million to hire more teachers to keep class sizes small;
- \$90 million for personal protective equipment for staff and students;
- \$62.5 million to hire 625 public health nurses to monitor for COVID-19 in schools;
- \$23.6 million for testing;
- \$79 million to hire up to 1,300 additional dedicated custodians and purchase cleaning supplies;
- \$65.5 million for enhanced cleaning and safety measures for student transportation;
- \$10 million for health and safety training of occasional teachers and education workers;
- \$42.5 million to support students with special needs and provide student mental health supports;
- \$50 million in one-time funding to support improved ventilation, air quality and HVAC system effectiveness in schools;
- \$54 million to hire additional principals, vice-principals and administrative staffing supports to better deliver and oversee remote learning;
- \$100 million to be responsive to local school board reopening plan priorities supporting a broad range of activities such as increasing the number of educators, custodians, additional bussing supports, and keeping class sizes small;
- \$15 million to purchase approximately 30,000 technological devices for students;
- \$44.5 million towards the school bus driver retention strategy;
- Up to an additional \$11 million in funding to support school boards that do not have sufficient reserves to promote equitable school re-opening plans province wide; and
- Up to \$496 million by allowing boards to unlock reserves and access up to two per cent of their operating budget from their reserve funds. This funding can be applied to local priorities of each board, based on the immediate needs on the ground to prepare for the **start of school**.

The following public health protocols and procedures will be implemented to help protect students, teachers, staff and visitors:

1. Parents must screen their children and all staff must self-screen every day before attending school. Students and staff who are unwell must stay home from school.
2. Schools must immediately report any suspected or confirmed cases of COVID-19 within the school to the local public health unit. Every day, school boards must report any staff or student absences due to confirmed cases of COVID-19 to the ministry.
3. Students in Grades 4-12 will be required to wear face coverings (non-medical or cloth masks) indoors in school, including in hallways, entrances and during classes. Face coverings are not required but are encouraged for students up to Grade 3. The province is funding each school board to provide PPE to teachers and other school-based staff, including medical masks and eye protection (for example, face shields).
4. Schools will teach and remind students about appropriate hand hygiene and provide breaks in schedules to allow students to wash their hands. Teachers and staff are also receiving additional health and safety training.
5. Each student will be kept with the same group of children and teachers as much as possible throughout the school day.
6. Schools will significantly limit visitors, including parents.
7. Schools will keep rigorous daily class attendance records, seating charts, lists of bussed students, and approved daily visitors (e.g. supply and occasional teachers, custodians) for contact-tracing purposes.

August 26, 2020 - The Ontario government's back-to-school plan, developed in consultation with the Chief Medical Officer of Health and public health officials, is being further enhanced by additional federal investments and resources to support the return to class in the fall. Today's federal announcement provides \$381 million to Ontario, on top of the nearly \$900 million provided by the province to support provincial back-to-school plans. The federal funding will support several priority provincial initiatives such as reopening plan Implementation, student transportation, special education and mental health supports enhancement, additional public health nurses, and remote learning.

The province is also setting aside \$50 million for any future pandemic learning needs, to ensure that Ontario is prepared for every scenario this Fall. Pending federal approvals in December, the Ministry of Education will announce the second half of the payment later this year for the remainder of the school year.

August 21, 2020 - The Ontario government is safely reopening more of the economy by easing restrictions for facilities that rent out professional meeting and event spaces. Beginning August 21, 2020, facilities can have up to 50 guests for each indoor meeting room or event space within the facility. The facility would have to adhere to a plan approved by the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health. The current indoor gathering limit will now apply on a per meeting room or event space basis at professional meeting and event facilities, including convention centres, hotels, motels, resorts, banquet halls and conference centres. Outdoor meeting and event facilities remain subject to the 100-person gathering limit for the entire outdoor area. Capacity limits exclude employees or event personnel. Safely allowing these facilities to host more meetings and events is an important step in Ontario's economic recovery.

In addition, new regulatory amendments have come into force requiring contact information for only one person in a party entering indoor or outdoor dining areas starting today, with exceptions. This will reduce the administrative burden on businesses such as restaurants, bars and other food and drink establishments, and tour and guide services, while continuing to support case and contact tracing.

August 14, 2020 - The Ontario government, in consultation with the Chief Medical Officer of Health, is supporting the safe reopening of many sport, fitness and recreation facilities by applying a capacity limit on a per room basis to help more businesses reopen their doors, get more people back to work and promote the return to a healthy and active lifestyle for all Ontarians. Beginning August 15, 2020 at 12:01 a.m., these facilities can have up to 50 patrons for each indoor sport or fitness room, while ensuring physical distancing of at least two metres.

August 13, 2020 - The Ontario government is providing more than half a billion dollars in supports to school boards to ensure schools across the province will reopen safely in September and to protect students and staff. These supports will enable school boards to provide more physical distancing in classrooms and direct funding to utilize non-school community spaces and will allow boards to make adjustments based on their local needs. The government is allowing boards to make necessary adaptations, in consultation with their local public health unit. Adaptations could include smaller class sizes and leasing additional space. Additional measures include:

- Unlocking access to reserves up to \$496 million, an increase of \$244 million, by allowing boards to access up to 2 per cent of their operating budget from their prior year accumulated surplus. This funding can be applied to local priorities of each board, based on the immediate needs on the ground to prepare for the start of school. For boards that do not have sufficient reserves,

the government will provide up to an additional \$11 million in funding to support equitable school re-opening plans provincially.

- Providing a record-setting \$50 million in one-time funding to support improved ventilation, air quality and HVAC system effectiveness in schools. School boards will continue to maximize their use of existing school renewal funding, which totals over \$1.4 billion this school year. Boards will focus on improving air systems in older schools, portables, and in neighbourhoods with higher rates of community transmission.

The government is also releasing a [Policy/Program Memorandum \(PPM\)](#) that ensures students receive a high quality and consistent teacher-led remote learning experience. This directive will significantly strengthen minimum expectations, as well as provide a consistent approach across the province to ensure students are fully engaged in their learning, and have a predictable timetable for synchronous, live learning. In addition, the government is investing \$18 million to help school boards hire principal and administrative support to better deliver and oversee synchronous, live learning. Students will continue to have several opportunities throughout the school year to re-enter classroom learning, and boards need to provide at least one re-entry point in the fall.

August 10, 2020 - On the advice of the Chief Medical Officer Health and the local medical officer of health, Windsor-Essex will be allowed to move into Stage 3 on Wednesday, August 12, 2020 at 12:01 a.m. The decision was based on positive local trends of key public health indicators, including lower transmission of COVID-19, ongoing hospital capacity, public health capacity to conduct rapid case and contact management, and a significant increase in testing.

July 30, 2020 - The government announced the safe reopening of schools for in-class instruction beginning this September that prioritizes the health and safety of students and staff, and provides school boards with unprecedented resources and flexibility, while accommodating regional differences in trends of key public health indicators. This plan was developed in consultation with the Chief Medical Officer of Health, the COVID-19 Command Table and paediatric experts. Elementary schools (Kindergarten to Grade 8) will reopen provincially, with in-class instruction five days a week. Secondary schools with lower risk will reopen with a normal daily schedule, five days a week, while most secondary schools will start the school year in an adapted model of part-time attendance with class cohorts of up to 15 students alternating between attending in-person and online. Students from Grade 4-12 and school staff will be required to wear masks.

Parents will continue to have the option to enroll their children in remote delivery, which respects their fundamental role in making the final determination of whether they feel safe with their children returning to school.

The Ontario government also announced its plan to allow licensed child care centres across Ontario to open at full capacity starting September 1, 2020. This decision was made in consultation with the Chief Medical Officer of Health and the COVID-19 Command Table. As a result, parents will be able to return to work knowing their children are in a safe and supportive care setting. EarlyON Child and Family Centres will also be permitted to reopen with in-person programming along with before- and after-school programs for school aged children which will be permitted to operate with standard ratios and maximum group size requirement

July 29, 2020 - Additional businesses and public spaces will be reopening as the Ontario government allows the City of Toronto and Peel Region to move into Stage 3 of reopening the province on Friday, July 31 at 12:01 a.m. This decision was made in consultation with the Chief Medical Officer of Health and

local medical officers of health. It is based on positive local trends of key public health indicators, including lower transmission of COVID-19, ongoing hospital capacity, public health capacity to conduct rapid case and contact management, and a significant increase in testing.

July 20, 2020 - The Ontario government is allowing seven more regions to enter Stage 3 on Friday, increasing the number of businesses and public spaces that will reopen across the province. The following regions will remain in Stage 2 until local trends of key public health indicators demonstrate readiness to move into Stage 3:

- Peel Public Health;
- Toronto Public Health; and
- Windsor-Essex County Health Unit.

July 13, 2020 - The Ontario government announced nearly all businesses and public spaces will reopen in Stage 3 of the province's reopening framework with public health and workplace safety measures and restrictions in place. As part of the Stage 3 reopening, Ontario will be increasing gathering limits for those regions entering the next stage to the following:

- Indoor gathering limits will increase to a maximum of 50 people;
- Outdoor gathering limits will increase to a maximum of 100 people;
- Gathering limits are subject to physical distancing requirements.

Regions remaining in Stage 2 will maintain the existing gathering limit of 10. Social circles in all stages at this point will also be kept to a maximum of 10 people province-wide, regardless of stage. To see the list of the regions moving into Stage 3, follow this link - <https://news.ontario.ca/opo/en/2020/07/nearly-all-businesses-and-public-spaces-to-reopen-in-stage-3.html>

As the province safely and gradually enters Stage 3, childcare centres and home child care providers across Ontario will be able to continue to operate with strict safety and operational requirements in place. Beginning on July 27, 2020, childcare centres will be permitted to operate with cohorts of 15 children, which is an increase from the current cohort cap of 10. This change will allow parents to return to work, and bring the childcare sector to approximately 90 per cent of its operating capacity before the COVID-19 outbreak.

June 24, 2020 - The Ontario government is allowing Windsor-Essex to move into Stage 2 of reopening on Thursday, June 25, 2020 at 12:01 a.m., with the exception of the Municipality of Leamington and the Town of Kingsville. These areas are being held back due to the higher transmission rates in the local agriculture and agri-food sector. This decision was made in consultation with the Chief Medical Officer of Health and the local Medical Officer of Health of Windsor-Essex County Health Unit.

June 22, 2020 - The Ontario government is allowing more businesses and services to open and getting more people back to work by moving the City of Toronto and Peel Region into Stage 2 on Wednesday.

June 19, 2020 - the Ontario government released its safety plan for the resumption of class for the 2020-21 school year, outlining scenarios for how students, teachers and staff can safely return to classrooms in September. The plan also provides choice to parents, enhanced online learning, and additional funding. While the decision to return to the normal school day routine will continue to be based on medical advice, boards and schools are being asked to plan for alternative scenarios that may need to be implemented in September depending on the province's COVID-19 situation.

June 18, 2020 - The Ontario government continues to move forward with 37 major infrastructure projects across the province using the public-private partnership (P3) model. Ontario's P3 model is part of the government's plan to build new infrastructure including transit, highways, schools and hospitals faster, improve productivity, help businesses get goods to markets, and create jobs. List of projects can be found in the Spring 2020 P3 Market Update:

https://www.infrastructureontario.ca/uploadedFiles/CONTENT/News/2_Market_Update/Spring-2020-P3-Market-Update.pdf

June 15, 2020 - The Ontario government, in consultation with the Chief Medical Officer of Health and local medical officers of health, is enabling more regions of the province to enter Stage 2 of the government's reopening framework. These regions are able to reopen due to positive trends of key public health indicators at the local level, including lower transmission of COVID-19, sufficient hospital health system capacity, local public health capacity to assist with rapid case and contact management, and a significant increase in testing provincially. The following regions will remain in Stage 1 under ongoing assessment until trends of key public health indicators demonstrate readiness to move into Stage 2:

- Peel Public Health;
- Toronto Public Health; and
- Windsor-Essex County Health Unit

June 12, 2020 - People throughout Ontario are being encouraged to establish a social "circle" of no more than 10 people who can interact and come into close contact with one another without physical distancing. Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health updated public health advice to come into effect immediately province-wide to allow social circles of up to 10 members, including those outside the immediate household. Social circles will support the mental health and well-being of Ontarians and help reduce social isolation. Ontarians who wish to form a safe social circle should follow these five simple steps:

1. Start with your current circle: the people you live with or who regularly come into your household;
2. If your current circle is under 10 people, you can add members to your circle, including those from another household, family members or friends;
3. Get agreement from everyone that they will join the circle;
4. Keep your social circle safe. Maintain physical distancing with anyone outside of your circle; and
5. Be true to your circle. No one should be part of more than one circle.

June 9, 2020 - The Ontario government announced its plan to reopen childcare centres across the province to support the next stage of the province's reopening framework. As the province continues to implement its *Framework for Reopening the Province*, childcare centres and home care providers across Ontario will be able to reopen with strict safety and operational requirements in place, similar to the safety guidelines required for emergency child care centres. Centres will be required to adopt specific rules, including:

- Cohorting — putting children and staff in groups of 10 or less day over day;
- COVID-19 response plan — all childcare settings will be required to have a plan in place if a child, parent or staff member/provider is exposed to COVID-19;
- Screening — all staff and children must be screened prior to entry to the childcare setting. Anyone feeling unwell must stay home;

- Daily attendance records — child care settings must keep daily records of all attendees in order to support contact tracing;
- Cleaning — child care settings must be thoroughly cleaned before opening and frequently thereafter;
- No visitors — only essential visitors are permitted entry into the childcare setting;
- Implementing drop-off and pick-up protocols in a way that facilitates physical distancing.

Effectively immediately, staff can re-enter childcare facilities and begin preparation for reopening. When these operators have met all the strict and stringent guidelines for reopening, they will be permitted to reopen.

June 8, 2020 - Effective Friday, June 12, 2020 at 12:01 a.m., the province will increase the limit on social gatherings from five to 10 people across the province, regardless of whether a region has moved to Stage 2. Additionally, all places of worship in Ontario will also be permitted to open with physical distancing in place and attendance limited to no more than 30 per cent of the building capacity to ensure the safety of worshippers. At the beginning of each week, the government will provide an update on the ongoing assessment of these regions, and whether they are ready to move into Stage 2 at the end of the week.

Businesses and services permitted to reopen with proper health and safety measures in place in regions entering Stage 2 include:

- Outdoor dine-in services at restaurants, bars and other establishments, including patios, curbside, parking lots and adjacent properties;
- Select personal and personal care services with the proper health and safety measures in place, including tattoo parlours, barber shops, hair salons and beauty salons;
- Shopping malls under existing restrictions, including food services reopening for take-out and outdoor dining only;
- Tour and guide services, such as bike and walking, bus and boat tours, as well as tasting and tours for wineries, breweries and distilleries;
- Water recreational facilities such as outdoor splash pads and wading pools, and all swimming pools;
- Beach access and additional camping at Ontario Parks;
- Camping at private campgrounds;
- Outdoor-only recreational facilities and training for outdoor team sports, with limits to enable physical distancing;
- Drive-in and drive-through venues for theatres, concerts, animal attractions and cultural appreciation, such as art installations;
- Film and television production activities, with limits to enable physical distancing; and
- Weddings and funerals, with limits on social gatherings to 10 people.

As more people return to work, the services they rely on will need to be available regardless of the stage a region is in. The province will soon release more details on:

- Child care;
- Summer camps;
- Post-secondary education pilots to help people graduate;
- Training centres; and
- Public transit.

June 2, 2020 - In consultation with the Chief Medical Officer of Health, Ontario is extending the provincial Declaration of Emergency to June 30. The decision supports the government's efforts to respond to the COVID-19 outbreak and protect the health and safety of Ontarians as the province reopens in a measured and responsible way.

June 1, 2020 - The government announced that it has enacted a new regulatory amendment that will put non-unionized employees on Infectious Disease Emergency Leave during the COVID-19 outbreak any time their hours of work are temporarily reduced by their employer due to COVID-19. This will ensure businesses aren't forced to terminate employees after their ESA temporary layoff periods have expired.

May 30, 2020 - The Ontario government is gradually reintroducing camping in Ontario Parks and recreational camping on Crown land, starting June 1, 2020, to give people more opportunities to enjoy the outdoors, while staying safe and practicing physical distancing. As of June 1, backcountry camping will be available at Ontario Parks, including access points, paddle and portage routes and hiking trails. Ontario Parks will also be expanding day-use activities to include picnicking and off-leash pet areas.

Following current provincial restrictions, no more than five people will be allowed to occupy a backcountry campsite during their stay, unless they live in the same household. The closure of all other overnight camping and some day-use activities at provincial parks and conservation reserves has been extended to June 14 and will continue to be reassessed. All buildings and facilities including campgrounds, roofed accommodations, visitor centers, park stores, playgrounds, and beaches remain closed. Some washroom facilities may be available.

May 29, 2020 - As the province carefully and gradually reopens the economy, the Ontario government is implementing the next phase of its COVID-19 testing strategy to detect and quickly stop the spread of the virus. Testing will now be available to more people in more locations across the province. They have released the next phase of the province's COVID-19 testing plan, [*Protecting Ontarians Through Enhanced Testing*](#), which includes three branches of testing:

1. **Assessment Centre Testing:** expanding who gets tested to now include asymptomatic individuals concerned about exposure and continued routine symptomatic testing at assessment centres.
2. **Targeted Campaigns:** detecting and containing cases by expanding asymptomatic surveillance for vulnerable populations, including in long-term care homes and other shared living spaces like shelters and group homes, as well as targeted testing of workplaces in priority sectors which work with priority populations and where it may be difficult to physically distance.
3. **Outbreak Management:** testing to ensure rapid and agile response capacity for outbreak management, including in specific neighbourhoods and regions or at hospitals, institutions and workplaces.

May 22, 2020 - the Ontario government is helping people affected by COVID-19 get back to work. The province is investing in Ontario's first Virtual Action Centre, an online counselling and training portal, to support laid off and unemployed hospitality workers, and is helping apprentices by providing grants to purchase tools, protective equipment and clothing for their trade, along with forgiving previous loans to purchase tools.

The government is providing an Ontario Tools Grant of \$2.5 million in 2020-21 and \$7.5 million in 2021-22 and ongoing. This will help new eligible apprentices purchase the equipment they need to start their careers. The funding amounts will be distributed as follows:

- \$1,000 for those in motive power sector trades;
- \$600 for those in construction and industrial sector trades;
- \$400 for those in service sector trades.

To be eligible for the new grant, apprentices must have:

- completed level 1 training on or after April 1, 2020;
- an active registered training agreement; and
- been registered as an apprentice for at least 12 months.

May 20, 2020 - As the Ontario government carefully and gradually reopens the province, those taking public transit, returning to work or going out shopping are being urged to continue to adhere to public health advice as the best line of defence against COVID-19. To assist the public, the Ministry of Health today released specific recommendations on how to choose, wear and care for appropriate face coverings used in public where physical distancing is not possible, along with additional safety measures for provincial transit agencies.

May 19, 2020 - The Ontario government, in consultation with the Chief Medical Officer of Health, has extended all emergency orders currently in force until May 29, 2020. That includes the closure of bars and restaurants except for takeout and delivery only, restrictions on social gatherings of more than five people, and staff redeployment rules for long-term care homes and congregate settings like retirement homes and women's shelters. The government is also allowing drive-in religious gatherings.

The Ontario government is protecting the health and safety of students during the COVID-19 outbreak by keeping schools closed for the rest of this school year. This decision was made after consulting with the Chief Medical Officer of Health, health experts on the COVID-19 Command Table, and medical experts at The Hospital for Sick Children. At the same time, the government is planning for the reopening of schools for the 2020-21 school year, the gradual reopening of child care, and the opening of summer day camps subject to the continuing progress in trends of key public health indicators.

May 14, 2020 - Today, the Ontario government announced businesses and health & community service providers who will be permitted to open or expand their services on Tuesday, May 19, 2020 at 12:01 a.m., provided that the general trend on health indicators continues to improve as part of the first stage of the government's reopening framework. As soon as 12:01 a.m. on **Saturday, May 16, 2020**:

- Golf courses will be able to open, with clubhouses open only for washrooms and restaurants open only for take-out.
- Marinas, boat clubs and public boat launches may open for recreational use.
- Private parks and campgrounds may open to enable preparation for the season and to allow access for trailers and recreational vehicles whose owners have a full season contract.
- Businesses that board animals, such as stables, may allow boarders to visit, care for or ride their animal.

Assuming trends in key public health indicators continue to improve, Ontario's first stage of reopening will begin on **Tuesday, May 19, 2020** at 12:01 a.m. and will include:

- Retail services that are not in shopping malls and have separate street-front entrances with measures in place that can enable physical distancing, such as limiting the number of customers in the store at any one time and booking appointments beforehand or on the spot.
- Seasonal businesses and recreational activities for individual or single competitors, including training and sport competitions conducted by a recognized national or provincial sport organization. This includes indoor and outdoor non-team sport competitions that can be played while maintaining physical distancing and without spectators, such as tennis, track and field and horse racing.
- Animal services, specifically pet care services, such as grooming and training, and regular veterinary appointments.
- Indoor and outdoor household services that can follow public health guidelines, such as housekeepers, cooks, cleaning and maintenance.
- Lifting essential workplace limits on construction.
- Allowing certain health and medical services to resume, such as in-person counselling; in-person services, in addition to virtual services, delivered by health professionals; and scheduled surgeries, all based on the ability to meet pre-specified conditions as outlined in *A Measured Approach to Planning for Surgeries and Procedures During the COVID-19 Pandemic*.

May 12, 2020 - The Ontario government is extending the Declaration of Emergency under the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act*. This additional time will ensure the province has the necessary tools and health care capacity to contain COVID-19, while gradually reopening businesses, services, and amenities safely. The Declaration of Emergency has been extended until June 2 and will allow Ontario to continue to enforce current emergency orders, such as restricting retirement and long-term care home employees from working in more than one facility and prohibiting events and gatherings of more than five people.

May 6, 2020 - The Ontario government is allowing all retail stores with a street entrance to provide curbside pickup and delivery, as well as in-store payment and purchases at garden centres, nurseries, hardware stores and safety supply stores. The business owners should review the health and safety guidelines developed by the province and its health and safety association partners.

- Friday, May 8 at 12:01 a.m., garden centres and nurseries will be able to open for in-store payment and purchases, operating under the same guidelines as grocery stores and pharmacies.
- Saturday, May 9 at 12:01 a.m., hardware stores and safety supply stores will be permitted to open for in-store payment and purchases.
- Monday, May 11 at 12:01 a.m., retail stores with a street entrance can begin offering curbside pickup and delivery. The government is also expanding essential construction to allow below-grade multi-unit residential construction projects like apartments and condominiums to begin and existing above-grade projects to continue. This will help clear the way for the housing and jobs our economy will need to support economic recovery from the impacts of the COVID-19 outbreak.

May 1, 2020 - The Ontario government is allowing certain businesses and workplaces to reopen as long as they comply with strict public health measures and operate safely during the COVID-19 outbreak. Those permitted to start up include seasonal businesses and some essential construction projects. The government, in partnership with Ontario's health and safety associations, has developed more than 60

guidelines in response to COVID-19. These sector-specific measures will help employers prepare their workplaces so they can be reopened safely and ensure workers, customers and the general public are protected. By following the proper health and safety guidelines these businesses will be permitted to begin operations on **Monday, May 4 at 12:01 a.m.:**

- Garden centres and nurseries with curbside pick-up and delivery only;
- Lawn care and landscaping;
- Additional essential construction projects that include:
 - shipping and logistics;
 - broadband, telecommunications, and digital infrastructure;
 - any other project that supports the improved delivery of goods and services;
 - municipal projects;
 - colleges and universities;
 - child care centres;
 - schools; and
 - site preparation, excavation, and servicing for institutional, commercial, industrial and residential development;
- Automatic and self-serve car washes;
- Auto dealerships, open by appointment only;
- Golf courses may prepare their courses for the upcoming season, but not open to the public; and
- Marinas may also begin preparations for the recreational boating season by servicing boats and other watercraft and placing boats in the water, but not open to the public. Boats and watercraft must be secured to a dock in the marina until public access is allowed.

Although certain businesses are being permitted to reopen, it is critical that people continue to stay home, practise physical distancing and only go out for essential reasons, to pick up groceries, prescriptions or to keep a medical appointment. It is through these simple actions that Ontario is making progress to stop the spread of COVID-19.

April 30, 2020 - In anticipation of the gradual re-opening of the economy, the Province of Ontario, in conjunction with four provincial health and safety associations, released safety guidelines for employers such that work can be conducted safely during the COVID-19 pandemic. These new sector-specific guidelines feature recommended actions employers can begin to plan for as they prepare to adapt to the new reality during COVID-19, including:

- Ways to ensure appropriate physical distancing, like eliminating pay-at-the-door options, holding team meetings outdoors, staggering shift times and using ground markings and barriers to manage traffic flow.
- Changes to the workplace, like installing plexiglass barriers, increasing the air intake on building heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems to increase air flow, and using boot sanitizing trays.
- Promoting proper workplace sanitation, providing personal protective equipment, substituting dry dusting with vacuuming, ensuring customer-facing staff are given hand sanitizer, providing a place to dispose of sanitizing wipes, and enforcing handwashing before and after breaks.

The safety guidelines pertaining to each sector can be found here:

https://www.ontario.ca/page/resources-prevent-covid-19-workplace?_ga=2.7966518.580909676.1587989289-2024361983.1555443934

April 28, 2020 - The Ontario government is launching the *COVID-19: Tackling the Barriers* website to help businesses overcome the unique challenges created by the global pandemic. Businesses working to retool their operations to produce health-related products, or those that want to continue their operations in this new environment of physical distancing, can submit any potential roadblocks to the website. The province is prepared to allow temporary changes to provincial rules and regulations in order to remove any barriers that are hindering business and negatively impacting Ontario's supply chain. https://www.ontario.ca/page/frontline-business-help-us-support-you-during-covid-19?_ga=2.130287115.580909676.1587989289-2024361983.1555443934

April 27, 2020 - the Ontario Government unveiled *A Framework for Reopening the Province* – a three-stage plan to gradually reopen the economy following several weeks of shutdown due to COVID-19. As proposed, the three-stage plan would see a gradual loosening of restrictions, with 2-4 week assessment periods to consider the daily impact on new COVID-19 cases. Highlights of the plan:

Stage 1:

- Allowing select businesses that are able to immediately meet or modify operations to meet public health guidance and occupational health and safety requirements (eg. curbside pick-up or delivery);
- Allowing some outdoor spaces, like parks, to open, and allow for a greater number of individuals to attend certain types of events, like funerals; and
- Allowing for hospitals to offer some non-urgent and scheduled surgeries, and other health care services.

Stage 2:

- Opening more business based on risk assessments, including the possibility of opening some service industries, offices and retail workplaces; and
- Opening more outdoor spaces, and allowing some larger public gatherings.

Stage 3:

- Opening all workplaces;
- Further relaxing restrictions on public gatherings, which still restricting large public gatherings – such as concerts and sporting events – for the foreseeable future.

Underscoring all of these stages is the need to continue to protect vulnerable populations and the requirement to continue practices of physical/social distancing, hand washing and respiratory hygiene. In order to be considered a “safe workplace”, it is expected that the workplace have a plan that promotes and adheres to strict hygiene and sanitation standards, and provides for physical/social distancing to the extent possible. This may require adjusting both work practices and physical environments.

No timetable has been attached to the reopening plan in Ontario, either in terms of whether the plan will take effect, or the length of each stage. The full plan is outlined here:

https://www.ontario.ca/page/reopening-ontario-after-covid-19?_ga=2.37833383.580909676.1587989289-2024361983.1555443934

April 24, 2020 - The Ontario government is partnering with the federal government to provide urgent relief for small businesses and landlords affected by the COVID-19 outbreak. The province is committing \$241 million through the new Ontario-Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance Program (OCECRA). The total amount of provincial-federal relief that would be provided is more than \$900 million, helping to ensure small businesses are ready to reopen their doors when the emergency measures are lifted.

April 16, 2020 - The Ontario government is enabling auto insurance companies to provide temporary insurance premium rebates to drivers during the COVID-19 pandemic. The province has amended a regulation under the *Insurance Act* to help ease the financial pressure on working people and families during this public health crisis. By amending this regulation insurance companies would be able to provide auto insurance premium rebates to consumers for up to 12 months after the declared emergency has ended.

April 14, 2020 - On the advice of the Chief Medical Officer of Health and with the approval of the Ontario legislature, the Ontario government is extending the Declaration of Emergency under the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act* for a further 28 days. This will allow the government to continue to use every tool at its disposal to protect the health and safety of the people of Ontario during the COVID-19 pandemic.

April 3, 2020 – Following the advice of the Chief Medical Officer of Health, the Ontario government reduced the list of businesses classified as essential and ordering more workplaces to close. These non-essential businesses will be required to close as of 11:59pm on April 4, 2020. This closure will be in effect for 14 days, with the possibility of an extension as the situation evolves. Teleworking, online commerce and other innovative ways of working remotely are permitted at all times and are strongly encouraged for all businesses. <https://www.ontario.ca/page/list-essential-workplaces#section-10>

April 2, 2020 - Ontario's Workplace Safety & Insurance Board (WSIB) formalized its adjudicative approach related to COVID-19, including information related to claims of potential exposure incidents at work. As a means of determining whether a COVID-19 claim is work-related, the decision-maker will assess whether:

1. the nature of the worker's employment created a risk of contracting COVID-19 that the public at large was not normally exposed to; and
2. the WSIB is satisfied that the worker's COVID-19 condition has been confirmed.

If the two conditions above are established, they will be considered persuasive evidence that the worker's employment contributed significantly to the worker's illness. However, claims which do not meet the conditions will be reviewed on their own merit, having regard to the circumstances of each case.

April 1, 2020 - In an effort to ensure that residents are maintaining physical distancing as a means of slowing the outbreak of COVID-19, municipalities across Ontario have begun imposing hefty fines to promote compliance. The imposition of these fines follow the Government of Ontario's physical distancing orders made under the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act*, whereby gatherings of more than five (5) people were prohibited.

March 29, 2020 – The Ontario government has stepped up measures to limit the spread of COVID-19 on construction sites. These measures include:

- providing better on-site sanitation, including a focus on high-touch areas like site trailers, door handles and hoists
- communicating roles, responsibilities, and health & safety policies, by, for example, posting site sanitization schedules and work schedules
- enabling greater distances between workers by staggering shifts, restricting site numbers and limiting elevator usage
- protecting public health by tracking and monitoring workers

Full details can be found at - https://www.ontario.ca/page/construction-site-health-and-safety-during-covid-19?_ga=2.6300466.1042988516.1585499296-2024361983.1555443934

March 25, 2020 – Premier Doug Ford announced Ontario's *Action Plan: Responding to COVID-19*. This \$17 billion response is a critical first step to ensure our health care system, communities and economy are positioned to weather the challenges ahead. Key initiatives in the government's plan to support people, families, workers and employers include:

- A one-time payment of \$200 per child up to 12 years of age, and \$250 for those with special needs, including children enrolled in private schools.
- Providing approximately \$5.6 billion for electricity cost relief programs in 2020-21, which is an increase of approximately \$1.5 billion compared to the *2019 Budget* plan.
- Setting electricity prices for residential, farm and small business time-of-use customers at the lowest rate, known as the off-peak price, 24 hours a day for 45 days to support ratepayers in their increased daytime electricity usage as they respond to the COVID-19 outbreak, addressing concerns about time-of-use metering.
- Cutting taxes by \$355 million for about 57,000 employers through a proposed temporary increase to the Employer Health Tax (EHT) exemption.
- Providing \$9 million in direct support to families for their energy bills by expanding eligibility for the Low-income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP) and ensuring that their electricity and natural gas services are not disconnected for nonpayment during the COVID-19 outbreak.
- Providing six months of Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP) loan and interest accrual relief for students, leaving more money in people's pockets.

The government's plan also includes measures that will make available \$10 billion in support for people and businesses through tax and other deferrals to improve their cash flows over the coming months, including:

- Providing five months of interest and penalty relief for businesses to file and make payments for the majority of provincially administered taxes.
- Deferring the upcoming June 30 quarterly municipal remittance of education property tax to school boards by 90 days, which will provide municipalities the flexibility to, in turn, provide property tax deferrals to residents and businesses, while ensuring school boards continue to receive their funding.
- The Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) allowing employers to defer payments for up to six months. They will not be required to opt in to receive this benefit.

March 23, 2020 – Premier Doug Ford announced that all non-essential business will be required to close as of 11:50pm on March 24, 2020. The mandatory closure will be in effect for a minimum of 14 days, with the possibility of a further extension. Details surrounding what compensation or relief, if any, will be made available to business arising from this mandatory closure should be made available on March 25, 2020. The list of essential Workplaces can be found here:

<https://s3.amazonaws.com/files.news.ontario.ca/opo/en/2020/03/list-of-essential-workplaces-2.html>

March 19, 2020 – New Infectious Disease Emergency Leave (Bill 186 – passed) provides for a new **unpaid**, job-protected **emergency leave** to any employee who is not performing the duties of his or her position due to:

- being under medical investigation, supervision or treatment related to a designated infectious disease
- acting in accordance with a relevant order under the *Health Protection and Promotion Act* related to a designated infectious disease
- being in quarantine isolation or subject to a control measure (which can include self-isolation) implemented as a result of information or direction related to a designated infectious disease which has been issued to the public by a public health official, a qualified health practitioner, Telehealth Ontario, the provincial or federal governments, or a municipal council or board of health
- being directed by their employer not to work due to a concern that the employee may expose other individuals in the workplace to a designated infectious disease
- providing care or support to any one of a defined group of individuals related to a designated infectious disease which “concerns” that individual (including school and daycare closures); or
- being directly affected by travel restrictions related to the designated infectious disease and who cannot reasonably return to Ontario.

Length of Leave: may last for as long as the employee is not performing their position for any one of the mandated reasons related to the designated infectious disease. An employee who takes COVID-19 Leave in order to remain in self-isolation may only require a 14-day leave. An employee who is caring for a child as a result of a COVID-19-related school closure may require a significantly longer leave if those closures are extended. An employee who is suffering from the effects of COVID-19 may require a lengthy leave of unknown duration.

Who’s covered - includes all categories of employees, whether they are full-time, part-time, students, assignment employees or casual workers.

Employment Entitlements - The general provisions in the *ESA* concerning other types of statutory leaves, such as pregnancy/parental leave or family medical leave, also apply to COVID-19 Leave. This includes:

- The right to reinstatement (subject to the caveat that if an employer has dismissed an employee for legitimate reasons that are totally unrelated to the fact that the employee took COVID-19 Leave, the employer does not have to reinstate the employee)
- The right to be free from penalty or “reprisal”
- The right to continue to participate in benefit plans (provided any applicable employee contributions are made) and
- The right to earn credits for length of employment, length of service and seniority (as applicable).

Employer Obligations - employers have the following reporting obligations:

- to report all occupational illnesses, including COVID-19, to the Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development in writing within four days and
- to notify their workplace’s joint health and safety committee or a health and safety representative and a trade union, as applicable.

One aspect of COVID-19 Leave that is unique is the apparent ability of an employer to “trigger” an unpaid statutory leave of absence by directing the employee not to work due to COVID-19 related concerns. This provides some helpful clarity regarding the employer’s right to exercise control over the issue of COVID-19 in the workplace.

March 17, 2020 – Ontario Emergency Declaration ordered the closure of all facilities that provide indoor recreation programs, private schools, public libraries, licensed childcare centres, theatres, cinemas and concert venues. There is also a ban on public events with over 50 people, which includes services within

places of worship. These orders are in place until March 31, 2020.

March 16, 2020 - Ontario government announced its intention to introduce legislation that will amend the *Employment Standards Act* by protecting jobs for employees who are unable to work due to COVID-19. If passed, the legislation would provide job protection to employees who cannot work due to COVID-19.

Alberta:

February 26, 2022 – As COVID-19 hospitalizations continue to decline and pressure on the health-care system decreases, step two of the province's path back to normal will begin on March 1.

Effective March 1:

- Remaining provincial school requirements (including cohorting) will be removed.
- Screening prior to youth activities will no longer be required.
- Capacity limits will be lifted for all venues.
- Limits on social gatherings will be removed.
- The provincial mask mandate will be lifted in most settings. However, masking will still be required in high-risk settings, including on public transit, at Alberta Health Services-operated and contracted facilities and all continuing care settings.
- Restrictions on interactive activities, liquor service and operating hours will be lifted
- Mandatory work-from-home requirements will be removed.

February 8, 2022 – Provincewide public health measures will be gradually lifted as the fifth wave of COVID-19 subsides and pressure on the health-care system eases.

Step one - Effective Feb. 8:

- Restrictions Exemption Program (REP) ends, along with most associated restrictions.
- Entertainment venues will continue to have some specific rules in place:
- Restrictions on sale of food and beverages and consumption while seated in audience settings will be removed.
- Restrictions on closing times, alcohol service, table capacity in restaurants and interactive activities will remain in force.
- For all businesses, venues and facilities – whether they were previously eligible for the REP or not – capacity limits are removed, except for:
- Facilities with capacity of 500 to 1,000, which will be limited to 500.
- Facilities with capacity of 1,000-plus, which will be limited to 50 per cent.

Step two - Effective March 1 (based on hospitalization rates continuing to trend downwards):

- Any remaining provincial school requirements (including cohorting) will be removed.
- Screening prior to youth activities will no longer be required.
- Capacity limits will be lifted for all venues.
- Limits on social gatherings will be removed.
- Provincial mask mandate will be removed.
- Mandatory work from home removed.

Step three - To be determined based on hospitalization rates continuing to trend downwards

- COVID-specific measures in continuing care will be removed.
- Mandatory isolation becomes a recommendation only.

December 15, 2021 –Albertans are being asked to observe public health measures over the holidays around social gatherings, masking and personal practices. Indoor social gatherings will remain limited to 10 people. This applies to Albertans aged 18 and over, with no limits on those under 18. Additionally, there will be no limits on number of households and no distinction between vaccine and unvaccinated attendees. With these modest changes, Alberta’s social gathering restrictions remain among the most stringent in Canada. Outdoor social gathering capacity remains at 20 people, regardless of vaccination status. Physical distancing between households is required.

November 23, 2021 – Albertans planning to travel can download an updated vaccine record with a QR code to use within and outside Canada on Nov. 24.

November 3, 2021 – Alberta expands eligibility for booster doses. Starting Nov. 8, the following Albertans will be eligible to book a third dose:

- All Albertans aged 70 and older
- First Nations, Métis, and Inuit (FNMI) people aged 18 and older
- Front-line health-care workers who received their first two doses less than eight weeks apart
- Albertans who received two doses of AstraZeneca or one dose of Janssen while abroad

FNMI people and front-line health workers must also have received their second dose more than six months ago to be eligible.

October 12, 2021 – The government-supported verification app to check proof of vaccination with a QR code is now available for download.

October 7, 2021 – Alberta’s government will bring in new supports for businesses implementing the Restrictions Exemption Program. In response to the latest public health actions, government is providing funding to help offset costs of implementing the Restrictions Exemption Program (REP) and support training for workers. The government will introduce legislation to protect businesses that require vaccinations for employees or implement the Restriction Exemption Program from legal challenges. The government will also be doubling fines for contravening public health orders, including the mistreatment of workers doing the difficult work ensuring public health orders are being followed, from \$2,000 to \$4,000.

REP Implementation Grant - Alberta’s government will soon offer a one-time payment of \$2,000 to Alberta small- and medium-sized businesses that are eligible for and choose to implement the Restrictions Exemption Program, requiring proof of vaccination, a negative test result or medical exemption.

REP Training Grant - An additional \$1 million will also be available for training to support the safety of workers when implementing the Restrictions Exemption Program. Eligible industry associations across Alberta can use the REP Training Grant to develop or procure training to help workers assess and manage challenging situations that may arise during their daily work. Workers and employers will be able to access this training through select industry associations.

September 20, 2021 – The Alberta Restriction Exemption Program is underway. Fully vaccinated individuals or those with a recent negative privately paid COVID-19 test are now able to safely access participating businesses and events across the province. The Restrictions Exemption Program allows eligible businesses, venues and services to be exempt from capacity and operating restrictions. If they do not implement this program to help protect patrons and prevent the spread of COVID-19, they are required to adhere to all public health measures now in effect.

September 15, 2021 – New temporary health measures to help slow the spread of COVID-19 will apply provincewide. This includes new restrictions on restaurants, indoor gatherings, weddings and funerals, retail, entertainment venues, and indoor sport and fitness beginning Sept. 20. Measures in workplaces, indoor private gatherings, places of worship, schools and children's activities, as well as mandatory masking and physical distancing in all indoor public spaces begin Sept. 16.

Effective Sept. 16 mandatory work-from-home measures are in place unless the employer has determined a physical presence is required for operational effectiveness.

Starting Sept. 20, vaccine-eligible individuals will be required to provide government-issued proof of immunization or a negative privately paid COVID-19 test from within the previous 72 hours to access a variety of participating social, recreational and discretionary events and businesses throughout the province. To enter certain spaces that are participating in the program, including restaurants, bars and indoor organized events, people aged 12 and older will be required to show their proof of vaccination or a negative recent test result. Businesses that implement the Restrictions Exemption Program would operate as usual, provided they are serving only people who have proof of immunization or who have a recent privately paid negative test, as per the requirements in place.

September 14, 2021 – Starting on Sept. 16, Albertans will be able to print a copy of their card-sized COVID-19 proof of vaccination or show it on their phone or tablet. Work is also underway to make proof of vaccination available through a QR code. It is recommended that Albertans plan ahead and save their proof of vaccination card on their phone or print it out before the needed date. MyHealth Records may experience high traffic volume before major events and long weekends.

September 3, 2021 – Due to increasing COVID-19 transmission and rising hospital admissions, overwhelmingly amongst unvaccinated Albertans, temporary measures are needed to reduce transmission and prevent the health-care system from being overwhelmed.

- The province will make masks mandatory for all indoor public spaces and workplaces starting Sept. 4 at 8 a.m. Schools are not required to implement masking but school boards will continue to set COVID-19 management policies as they deem appropriate.
- Also, as of Sept. 4 at 8 a.m., restaurants, cafés, bars, pubs, nightclubs and other licensed establishments will be required to end alcohol service at 10 p.m.
- In addition, Albertans are encouraged to limit in-person contacts. To support this, the province strongly recommends that unvaccinated Albertans limit their indoor social gatherings to close contacts of only two cohort families up to a maximum of 10 people.
- It is also recommended that plans for in-person return to work be paused, and that employers revert to work-from-home where possible. If employees are working on location, employees must mask for all indoor settings, except in work stations.

August 30, 2021 – Starting Sept. 1, third doses of COVID-19 vaccine will be available for all seniors living in congregate care facilities and for immunocompromised Albertans. In addition, mRNA doses will be made available to Albertans who are travelling to a jurisdiction that does not accept visitors who have been vaccinated with Covishield/AstraZeneca or mixed doses.

August 13, 2021 – After closely monitoring COVID-19 in Alberta for the previous two weeks and reviewing emerging evidence from other jurisdictions, the following will continue until Sept. 27:

- Mandatory masking orders in publicly accessible transit, taxis and ride-shares.
- Mandatory isolation for 10 days for those with COVID-19 symptoms or a positive test result.
- Testing at assessment centres for any symptomatic individual.

These measures were scheduled to be eased on Aug. 16, however this six-week pause will provide additional time to monitor severe outcomes of COVID-19 and increase immunization rates

July 28, 2021 – With strong vaccine uptake, Alberta will gradually bring COVID-19 measures in line with other respiratory viruses to ensure health system capacity for the fall. In the coming weeks, Alberta's health system will take steps to make sure that it is ready to support all patients, including those with COVID-19 and other respiratory viruses, like influenza, which health officials expect to increase this year.

As a part of this, Alberta will bring COVID-19 quarantine, isolation, and other measures in line with those used for influenza and other viruses. Testing for severe cases, provincial monitoring, outbreak management in high-risk settings, and other key measures will remain in place. Health officials will be able to adapt as needed if hospitalizations due to COVID-19 spike in the future.

The following changes will be effective July 29:

- Quarantine for close contacts will shift from mandatory to recommended. Isolation for anyone with COVID-19 symptoms and for confirmed positive cases is still required.
 - Unimmunized individuals who know they have been exposed to COVID-19 should monitor for symptoms and seek testing if they become symptomatic.
 - Anyone who is not fully immunized should avoid high-risk locations such as continuing care facilities and crowded indoor spaces if they have been in contact with a case in the past 14 days.
- All positive cases will continue to be notified. Contact tracers will no longer notify close contacts of exposure. Individuals are asked to inform their close contacts when informed of their positive result.
- Contact tracers will continue to investigate cases that are in high-risk settings such as acute and continuing care facilities.
- Outbreak management and identification will focus on high-risk locations, including continuing and acute care facilities and high-risk workplaces. Community outbreaks with a surge in cases leading to severe outcomes will also be addressed as needed.
- Asymptomatic testing is no longer recommended. Testing will continue to be available for individuals who are symptomatic.
- Mandatory masking remains in acute and continuing care facilities, publicly accessible transit, taxis and ride-share.

The following changes will take effect on Aug. 16:

- Provincial mandatory masking orders will be lifted. Some masking in acute care or continuing care facilities may still be required.
- Isolation following a positive COVID-19 test result will no longer be required, but strongly recommended.
 - Individuals with symptoms of any respiratory infection should still remain at home until symptoms have resolved.
 - Staying home when sick remains an important way to care for those around us by not passing on any infection.
- Isolation hotels and quarantine support will no longer be available.

- Testing will be available for Albertans with symptoms when it is needed to help direct patient care decisions.
 - This testing will be available through assessment centres until Aug. 31 and, after that, will be in primary care settings including physicians' offices. For those with severe illness requiring urgent or emergency care, testing will be available in acute care and hospital settings.
 - COVID-19 testing will also be offered as needed in high-risk outbreaks such as in continuing care facilities.
- Public health will focus on investigating severe cases that require hospitalization and any deaths due to COVID-19.
- Outbreak management and preventative measures will continue focusing on outbreaks in high-risk settings, such as continuing and acute care facilities.
 - Community outbreaks will continue to be addressed as needed.
 - Daycares and schools will be supported with measures that would be effective for any respiratory virus if outbreaks are identified.

June 18, 2021 – Alberta hits 70% threshold, triggering full reopening on July 1. Alberta has reached its final Open for Summer threshold, triggering a two-week waiting period before Stage 3 begins. Effective July 1, 2021, all remaining restrictions will be lifted, including the ban on indoor social gatherings. Isolation requirements for confirmed cases of COVID-19 and protective measures in continuing care settings may remain. The general indoor provincial mask mandate will be lifted, but masking may still be required in limited and specific settings.

June 9, 2021 – Beginning June 10, Stage 2 of the Open for Summer Plan will take effect, two weeks after 60 per cent of Albertans age 12-plus received at least one dose of vaccine and with COVID-19 hospitalizations well below 500 and still falling. Alberta will take a big step towards safely returning to normal as fitness centres, libraries and movie theatres reopen and large outdoor gatherings resume. Restrictions eased in Stage 2 are:

- Outdoor social gatherings increase to 20 people, with distancing.
- Indoor and outdoor wedding ceremonies may occur with up to 20 attendees. Receptions are permitted outdoors.
- Indoor and outdoor funeral services remain unchanged with up to 20 people permitted. Receptions are permitted outdoors.
- Restaurants may seat tables with up to six people, indoors or outdoors.
- Dining parties are no longer restricted to households only.
- Physical distancing and other restrictions still apply.
- Retail capacity increases to one-third of fire code occupancy.
- Capacity for places of worship increases to one-third of fire code occupancy.
- Gyms and other indoor fitness facilities open for solo and drop-in activities with three-metre distancing between participants and fitness classes may resume with three-metre distancing.
- Indoor settings may open with up to one-third of fire code occupancy, including indoor recreation centres. This includes arenas, cinemas, theatres, museums, art galleries and libraries.
- Indoor and outdoor youth and adult sports resume.
- Youth activities, such as day camps, overnight camps and play centres, may resume.
- Personal and wellness services can resume walk-in services.
- Post-secondary institutions can resume in-person learning.
- The work-from-home order is lifted but still recommended.

- Outdoor fixed seating facilities (e.g., grandstands) can open with one-third seated capacity.
- Public outdoor gatherings increase to 150 people (e.g., concerts/festivals).

Indoor masking and distancing requirements remain in place throughout Stage 2. Some restrictions continue to apply to activities within each step.

Stage 3 is expected to begin in late June or early July. This is dependent on all Albertans continuing to get vaccinated and following the public health measures in place.

June 1, 2021 – Stage 1 measures are effective immediately. They are in addition to the easing of capacity limits for worship services that began on May 28. Officials will continue to monitor the progress of Alberta's vaccine rollout while keeping a close eye on hospitalization numbers and COVID-19 transmission in the province.

May 26, 2021 – Alberta's Open for Summer Plan provides a three-stage road map to lifting health restrictions and safely getting back to normal. The Plan includes three stages based on vaccination thresholds and hospitalizations:

- Stage 1: Two weeks after 50 per cent of Albertans age 12-plus have received at least one dose of vaccine and COVID-19 hospitalizations are below 800 and declining.
- Stage 2: Two weeks after 60 per cent of Albertans age 12-plus have received at least one dose of vaccine and COVID-19 hospitalizations are below 500 and declining.
- Stage 3: Two weeks after 70 per cent of Albertans age 12-plus have received at least one dose of vaccine.

Since Alberta reached the 50 per cent threshold for one-dose vaccination on May 18, and with hospitalizations well below 800, Alberta will enter Stage 1 on June 1. Based on the current pace of vaccinations, Alberta is projected to enter Stage 2 in mid-June and Stage 3 in late June or early July. These are estimates only and rely on all Albertans continuing to drive down our hospitalizations while increasing vaccination numbers. Full details on the plan can be found [here](#).

May 19, 2021 – Students across Alberta will return to their classrooms on May 25 as planned, except for students in the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo.

May 13, 2021 – The rules around exemptions from wearing a mask due to a medical condition are changing. Individuals will now be required to obtain a medical exception letter verifying their health condition from an authorized health-care provider. The medical exception letter must come from a nurse practitioner, physician or psychologist. It may be presented when in a public setting, if requested by enforcement officials or retrospectively in court if a ticket is issued.

May 4, 2021 – New restrictions come into force effective May 5, unless indicated otherwise, and will remain in place for at least three weeks. These include new restrictions on outdoor social gatherings, schools, retail, restaurants, places of worship, personal and wellness services, outdoor sports and fitness, funerals, and post-secondary institutions. These new measures apply to all Albertans, businesses, organizations and service providers in municipalities or areas with more than 50 cases per 100,000 people and with 30 or more active cases.

- *Outdoor social gatherings*

- All outside social gatherings must be limited to no more than five people.
 - This is a decrease from the previous 10-person limit.
 - Mandatory physical distancing must be maintained at all times between members of different households.
 - All indoor social gatherings are still prohibited.
- *Indoor fitness*
 - All indoor fitness must close, including for one-on-one training.
- *Funerals*
 - No more than 10 people can attend funeral services, including participants and guests.
 - This is a decrease from the current limit of 20 people, and brings funerals in line with wedding services.
 - Wedding and funeral receptions are still not permitted.
- *Retail*
 - Retail services must limit customer capacity to 10 per cent of fire code occupancy (not including staff) or a minimum of five customers.
 - The 10 per cent capacity limit at shopping malls will exclude common area square footage.
 - Curbside pick up, delivery and online services are encouraged.
- *Post-secondary institutions*
 - All post-secondary learning must shift to online learning only.
- *Places of worship*
 - Faith services are limited to in-person attendance of 15 people. This is a decrease from the previous 15 per cent capacity limit.
 - Physical distancing between households must be maintained at all times.
 - Virtual or online services are strongly recommended.
 - Drive-in services where people do not leave their vehicles and adhere to guidance are allowed.
- *Hotels/motels*
 - Hotels and motels can remain open but pools and recreation facilities must close.
- *Working from home*
 - Working from home remains mandatory unless the employer requires the employee's physical presence to operate effectively.
 - Where at work for operational effectiveness, employees must mask for all indoor settings, except in work stations or where two-metre physical distancing or adequate physical barriers are in place.
- ***Work place transmission***
 - **Any workplace, except work camps and essential and critical services, with transmission of three or more cases will be required by health officials to close for 10 days.**
 - Any workplace that does not comply will be subject to enforcement.
- *Schools (K-12)*
 - All kindergarten to Grade 12 students will temporarily shift to at-home learning, starting on May 7. Students will return to in-class learning on May 25. Exceptions will continue to be available for students with disabilities so they can continue to attend in-person classes as necessary.
- *Restaurants, bars, pubs, lounges and cafes*
 - In-person dining on patios is prohibited. Only take out or delivery services are allowed.
- *Personal and wellness services*

- Hair salons, barbers, nail salons, estheticians, tattoos and piercing, must close.
- Previously, these were allowed by appointment only.
- *Health, social and professional services*
 - Regulated health services, such as physicians, dentists and chiropractors, can remain open by appointment only.
 - Non-regulated health services, such as massage therapists and kinesiologists, can remain open by appointment only.
 - Professional services, such as lawyers and photographers, can remain open by appointment only.
 - Social services, such as shelters and not-for-profit community kitchens, can remain open.
- *Sports, performance and recreation*
 - All outdoor sports and recreation are now prohibited except with members of your household or, if living alone, two close contacts. This is a decrease from the current limit of 10 people.
 - This includes:
 - all group physical activities, such as team sports, fitness classes, training sessions
 - all one-on-one lessons and training activities
 - all practices, training and games
 - All indoor sport and recreation is prohibited, including youth sports.
 - All indoor performance activity is prohibited, including youth performances.
 - Professional sport organizations that have received an exemption can continue, provided protocols are strictly followed.

All other public health measures remain in place, including masking and physical distancing requirements.

To reinforce the importance of following public health orders and the consequences of not doing so, fines will double to \$2,000 for Public Health Act violations.

April 29, 2021 – Targeted restrictions will apply to municipalities or regions where there are at least 350 cases per 100,000 people and 250 currently active cases. These municipalities include Calgary, Edmonton, Red Deer, Airdrie, and Lethbridge. New measures will apply to junior and senior high schools, and sports and fitness activities in these communities. These targeted restrictions will remain in place for at least two weeks for any community or area that reaches this trigger. After 14 days, the enhanced measures will be lifted once the municipality falls back below the threshold. Details can be found [here](#).

April 21, 2021 – Alberta's government has passed legislation that amends the Employment Standards Code to ensure working Albertans can access paid, job-protected leave to get each COVID-19 vaccine. Effective today, every working Albertan can access up to three hours of paid, job-protected leave for each dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. All employees are eligible regardless of job status or length of employment.

April 20, 2021 – At the request of the school boards, students in Grades 7 to 12 in Edmonton Public Schools and Edmonton Catholic Schools will shift to at-home learning starting on April 22 for two weeks.

April 14, 2021 – Alberta Education has approved requests from public and Catholic schools in Calgary to temporarily shift Grades 7 to 12 to at-home learning. Students in Grades 7 to 12 in the Calgary Board of Education and the Calgary Catholic School District will shift to at-home learning starting April 19 for two weeks.

April 10, 2021 – The in-school rapid screening test program will expand to up to 300 schools in Calgary, Edmonton, Lethbridge and Grande Prairie. Testing will begin as soon as possible over the coming weeks as rapid testing teams are set up 440,000 rapid test kits will be distributed to schools, and testing will be offered to up to 220,000 students and staff across Alberta. Teams may also be deployed at a school outside of the four communities when Alberta Health identifies a need at a specific school.

As part of Phase 2C of Alberta’s vaccine rollout, nurses, doctors, dentists and any health-care workers in patient care facilities or providing direct patient care in the community will receive the vaccine. This will help prevent COVID-19 from spreading to patients and people at highest risk of severe outcomes. Due to limited vaccine supply, all other groups in Phase 2C will become eligible in the coming weeks.

April 6, 2021 – Alberta is returning to Step 1 of the four-step framework to protect the health system and reduce the rising spread of COVID-19 provincially. Effective at 11:59 p.m. on April 6, updated mandatory health measures go into effect for retail, fitness and performance activities. Effective at noon on Friday, April 9, restaurants will be restricted to providing only takeout, delivery and patio service. Further detail on Step 1 can be found [here](#).

March 23, 2021 - Alberta’s government is offering millions of free rapid testing kits to public, private and not-for-profit employers and service providers provincially. This follows the successful rollout of more than 1.2 million rapid tests to long-term care facilities, schools, outbreak sites, hospitals, homeless shelters and industries across the province. To be eligible for rapid testing kits, employers and service providers must submit a screening program plan that outlines:

- protocols for administering the tests
- the use of personal protective equipment
- processes for reporting results and managing individuals who screen positive.

A health-care provider is required to oversee the organization’s screening program. However, the tests can be administered by a trained layperson, and self-administration is permissible under certain conditions.

March 16, 2021 - Community physicians will begin offering COVID-19 vaccinations in April. Initially, a limited number of clinics will be able to offer the COVID-19 vaccines; however, vaccine supply is expected to increase during the coming weeks and the number of community clinics administering the vaccine will expand along with supply. Planning is underway for rapid flow clinics involving physicians and other health-care professionals that can be used in the future, if needed. These clinics would be used if Alberta received an unexpected surge in vaccine supply.

March 8, 2021 - Alberta moves into full Step 2 of Path Forward. Updated health measures are now in place for retail, hotels and community halls, performance groups, and youth sports, performance and recreation. These changes are effective immediately. They are in addition to the Step 2 measures announced on March 1, as pressure eases on the health system and hospitalizations remain well below 450.

March 4, 2021 - Alberta's COVID-19 vaccine rollout will soon offer 495,500 more Albertans the chance to be protected from the virus. Within two weeks, participating pharmacies and Alberta Health Services will begin vaccinating Albertans between the ages of 65 and 74, and First Nations, Métis and Inuit persons age 50 or older, regardless of where they live.

March 1, 2021 - Alberta will move cautiously to Step 2 of the four-step framework to ease restrictions while maintaining strong measures to limit the spread of COVID-19 provincewide. Effective immediately, updated health measures are in place for indoor fitness and libraries as pressure eases on the health system and hospitalizations remain well below 450. As a cautionary measure, changes to current restrictions for retail, children's sports, and hotels, banquets, community halls and conference centres have been delayed. Indoor masking and distancing requirements will remain in place throughout this stepped approach, and some degree of restrictions will still apply to all activities within each step. Further details can be found [here](#).

February 24, 2021 - Alberta parents who use childcare will receive \$561 per child with the new Working Parents Benefit, a one-time payment to help parents with the cost of childcare. Families will be eligible to apply for the Working Parents Benefit if they have:

- Children in any form of childcare, including licensed or unlicensed childcare.
- A household annual income of \$100,000 or less.
- Paid for three months of childcare between April 1 and Dec. 31, 2020 (must provide receipts).

February 6, 2021 - Starting Feb. 8, children and youth will be allowed to participate in lessons, practices and conditioning activities for indoor and outdoor team-based minor sports and athletics. All games continue to be prohibited. While limited indoor and outdoor activities for school and minor sports are allowed, strong public health measures remain in place:

- All participants must be 18 years old or younger, excluding coaches or trainers.
- A maximum of 10 individuals, including all coaches, trainers and participants, can participate.
- All participants must maintain physical distancing from each other at all times.
- Participants must be masked at all times, except when engaged in the physical activity.
- Coaches and trainers must remain masked at all times.
- There must be limited access to change rooms, including for accelerated arrival and departure, for emergencies and for washroom use.

All other previously announced measures set to ease in Step 1 will also be permitted starting on Feb. 8 as part of Alberta's four-step path forward. Further details can be found [here](#).

February 1, 2021 – All Albertans are now eligible to receive self-isolation supports to help limit the spread of COVID-19. Prior to this expansion, only Albertans in Edmonton and Calgary were eligible for the \$625 payment when they completed self-isolating in their assigned hotel. COVID Care Teams will continue to provide on-the-ground supports and interventions to limit the spread of the virus. Supports include care packages with masks, sanitizers and information translated in multiple languages. Safe transportation to COVID-19 assessment and testing facilities is also available.

January 29, 2021 – The Alberta government has released a new plan for easing health measures. These steps and benchmarks will provide a transparent approach to easing restrictions for businesses and individuals while protecting the health-care system. Each step has an associated benchmark of hospitalized COVID-19 patients, including intensive care patients. Changes to restrictions will be considered once a benchmark is reached. The hospitalization benchmarks are:

- Step 1 – 600 and declining
- Step 2 – 450 and declining
- Step 3 – 300 and declining
- Step 4 – 150 and declining

With hospitalizations dipping below 600, Alberta will move to Step 1 on Feb. 8. If after three weeks the hospitalization numbers are in the range of the next benchmark, decisions will be considered for moving to Step 2. The same three-week re-evaluation period will be used for all subsequent steps. The grouping and sequencing of steps is based on relative risk for COVID-19 transmission. Actions with the lowest relative risk will be those first considered for easing.

Early steps: In effect Jan. 18

- Outdoor social gatherings allowed up to 10 people.
- Personal and wellness services opened for appointments only.
- Funeral service attendance was raised to 20 people.
- In-person classes resumed for K-12 students (Jan. 11).

Step 1: Hospitalization benchmark – 600 – effective Feb 8

- Potential easing of some restrictions related to:
 - Indoor and outdoor children’s sport and performance (school-related only)
 - Indoor personal fitness, one-on-one and by appointment only
 - Restaurants, cafes, and pubs

Step 2: Hospitalization benchmark – 450

- Potential easing of some restrictions related to:
 - Retail
 - Community halls, hotels, banquet halls and conference centres
 - Further easing of some restrictions eased in Step 1

Step 3: Hospitalization benchmark – 300

- Potential easing of some restrictions related to:
 - Places of worship
 - Adult team sports
 - Museums, art galleries, zoos and interpretive centres
 - Indoor seated events, including movie theatres and auditoriums
 - Casinos, racing centres and bingo halls
 - Libraries
 - Further easing of some restrictions eased in Steps 1 and 2

Step 4: Hospitalization benchmark – 150

- Potential easing of some restrictions related to:
 - Indoor entertainment centres and play centres
 - Tradeshows, conferences and exhibiting events
 - Performance activities (e.g., singing, dancing, wind instruments)
 - Outdoor sporting events (e.g., rodeo)
 - Wedding ceremonies and receptions
 - Funeral receptions
 - Workplaces – lifting work-from-home measures
 - Amusement parks

- Indoor concerts and sporting events
- Festivals, including arts and cultural festivals (indoor and outdoor)
- Day camps and overnight camps
- Further easing of some restrictions eased in Steps 1-3

January 14, 2021 – The Alberta government is easing restrictions around outdoor gatherings, personal services and funeral attendance effective January 18, 2021. While indoor gatherings remain prohibited, up to 10 people will be allowed at outdoor social gatherings. Personal and wellness services will be allowed to open by appointment only. Funeral ceremony attendance will be increased to 20 people, with mandatory masking and two meter physical distancing. Funeral receptions are still not allowed.

January 7, 2021 - All students will return to in-person learning, as planned, on Jan. 11. Mandatory health measures will remain in effect across the province until at least Jan. 21. While students return to in-person learning, all Albertans, businesses, organizations and service providers must continue to follow existing health measures until at least Jan. 21. Active evaluation of the latest public health data is underway and will be used to re-evaluate the current level of restrictions over the coming weeks.

December 21, 2020 – Alberta government is urging all travellers who have arrived from the United Kingdom within the past 14 days to immediately get a COVID-19 test, whether they have symptoms or not. Travellers will be contacted directly by Alberta Health Services to book a test. Also, travellers from the United Kingdom who are participating in the border pilot must immediately quarantine, whether they've had a negative test or not. All returning travellers currently in quarantine must remain in quarantine for the full 14 days.

December 17, 2020 – Starting Dec. 18, rapid point-of-care testing will begin at long-term care and designated supportive living facilities in the Edmonton Zone using dedicated mobile testing centres. Mobile testing centres are expected to be ready to deploy in Calgary Zone starting the week of Dec. 21. Mobile testing centres will be focused first on outbreak sites. Expansion to long-term care and designated supportive living facilities outside Edmonton and Calgary zones is expected to follow shortly after.

December 15, 2020 – Alberta is launching a [comprehensive outreach program](#) to reach communities with high levels of COVID-19 spread in Edmonton and Calgary. COVID-19 Care Teams will be providing information about how to access supports people need to keep themselves and their families safe. People in these areas who test positive for COVID-19 will be eligible for a free-of-charge hotel room stay of 14 days, complete with culturally appropriate food and temporary financial aid in the amount of \$625 when they have completed their self-isolation.

December 9, 2020 - Alberta will deliver its first COVID-19 vaccines to critical health-care workers next week. The initial shipments of the vaccines must be administered on-site at dedicated vaccine sites and cannot be transported to long-term care or other facilities. Therefore the first immunizations will focus on health-care workers crucial to supporting vulnerable Albertans and caring for critically ill patients. Alberta Health Services will begin booking appointments with intensive care unit health-care workers, respiratory therapists and long-term care workers eligible to be immunized. Eligibility will begin with workers at the highest risk facilities. In addition to the groups mentioned above, also in Phase 1 of Alberta's vaccine strategy are seniors aged 75 and older, on-reserve First Nations individuals and on-settlement Metis individuals age 65 and older, and health-care workers who are most likely to transmit COVID-19 to those at greatest risk and who are critical for maintaining hospital capacity. Phase 2 is

expected to begin by April 2021 and will again be targeted to the next groups of prioritized populations. Final decisions regarding eligibility in Phase 2 have not yet been determined. Phase 3 will involve rolling out vaccinations to the general Alberta population, anticipated to start later in 2021.

December 8, 2020 - Expanded health measures will be in effect provincewide. New expanded mandatory measures come into effect Dec. 8 for social gatherings and mandatory masking. All others come into effect at 12:01 a.m., Dec. 13. All Albertans, businesses, organizations and service providers must follow all new health measures. These restrictions will be in place for a minimum of four weeks (Jan. 12, 2021).

- Social Gatherings - All indoor and outdoor social gatherings – public and private – are prohibited. Close contacts are limited to household members only. Individuals who live alone will be allowed up to two close contacts for in-person visiting, with those two people remaining the same for the duration of the restriction period. Festivals, parades, events, concerts, exhibitions, competitions, sport and performance remain prohibited.
- Masking - The mandatory indoor public masking requirement will be extended provincewide. Public spaces include locations where a business or entity operates and is applicable to employees, visitors and the general public. Applies to all indoor workplaces and facilities outside the home. Farm operations are excluded. Rental accommodations used solely for the purposes of a private residence are excluded.
- Places of worship – All places of worship will be limited to 15 per cent of fire code occupancy for in-person attendance. Virtual or online services are strongly encouraged. Drive-in services where individuals do not leave their vehicles and adhere to guidance will be permissible and are not subject to capacity restrictions. Mandatory mask mandate, physical distancing and other guidelines remain in place.
- Retail - Retail services must reduce customer capacity to 15 per cent of fire code occupancy, with a minimum of five customers permitted. Curbside pickup, delivery and online services are encouraged. Shopping malls will be limited to 15 per cent of fire code occupancy.
- Closures – Restaurants, pubs, bars, lounges and cafes will be closed to in-person service. Only takeout, curbside pickup and delivery services are permitted. Casinos, bingo halls, gaming entertainment centres, racing entertainment centres, horse tracks, raceways, bowling alleys, pool halls, legions, and private clubs will be closed. Recreational facilities – fitness centres, recreation centres, pools, spas, gyms, studios, day and overnight camps, indoor rinks and arenas – will be closed. Outdoor recreation is permitted, but facilities with indoor spaces except for washrooms will be closed. Entertainment businesses and entities – libraries, science centres, interpretive centres, museums, galleries, amusement parks and water parks – will be closed. Hotels may remain open but must follow restrictions – no spas, pools or in-person dining. Room services only. Personal and wellness services, including hair salons, nail salons, massage, tattoos, and piercing, will be closed. Health services, including physiotherapy or acupuncture, social or protective services, shelters for vulnerable persons, emergency services, childcare, and not-for-profit community kitchens or charitable kitchens will remain open for in-person attendance.
- Working from home - Mandatory work from home measures will be implemented unless the employer determines that work requires a physical presence for operational effectiveness.

December 2, 2020 - The Alberta government has appointed a new COVID-19 Vaccine Task Force. The Task Force will build on the steps that Alberta Health and Alberta Health Services have already taken to prepare for the delivery of a vaccine. Once approved, Alberta anticipates receiving enough doses of Pfizer and Moderna vaccines to initially immunize up to 435,000 Albertans who are most at-risk, between January and March 2021. Immunization will be phased, starting with Phase 1 in early January,

once vaccines are received. Those vaccinated in Phase 1 include long-term care and designated supported living residents and staff in those facilities, on-reserve First Nations individuals over age 65, seniors aged 75 and older, and health-care workers most needed to ensure workforce capacity and who are most likely to transmit COVID-19 to those at greatest risk. Phase 2 is expected to begin by April 2021 and will again be targeted to prioritized populations. Phase 3 will involve rolling out vaccinations to the general Alberta population, anticipated to start by fall 2021.

November 24, 2020 - Alberta's government is declaring a state of public health emergency and putting aggressive measures in place to protect the health system and reduce the rising spread of COVID-19 cases. Not following mandatory restrictions could result in fines of \$1,000 per ticketed offence and up to \$100,000 through the courts.

Provincewide measures

Public and private gatherings - Effective immediately, mandatory restrictions on social gatherings are in effect provincewide. These measures will be in place until further notice and include:

- No indoor social gatherings are permitted in any setting, including workplaces.
- Outdoor social gatherings are limited to a maximum of 10 people.
- Funeral services and wedding ceremonies must follow all public health guidance and are limited to a maximum of 10 in-person attendees. Receptions are not permitted.

Schools - In all schools, Grades 7-12 will move to at-home learning on Nov. 30, ending in-person classes early.

- Students in early childhood services and Grades K-6 will remain learning in-person until Dec. 18.
- All students will return to at-home learning after the winter break and resume in-person learning on Jan. 11, 2021.
- These measures are mandatory.
- Diploma exams are optional for the rest of the school year. Students and their families can choose whether to write the exam or receive an exemption for the January, April, June, and August 2021 exam sessions.

Measures for regions under enhanced status

Effective immediately, mandatory restrictions on places of worship, businesses and services are in effect in areas under enhanced status. These measures will be in place until further notice.

Places of worship

- Places of worship are limited to a maximum of one-third normal attendance per service.
- Physical distancing between households and masking are required.
- Faith-based leaders are encouraged to move services online.
- In-person faith group meetings can continue but must maintain physical distancing and public health measures must be followed.

Businesses and services - Starting Nov. 27, business and service restrictions fall under three categories: closed for in-person business, open with restrictions, and open by appointment only. Impacts by category are available here: alberta.ca/enhanced-public-health-measures.aspx. These measures will remain in place for three weeks but will be extended if needed. Albertans are encouraged to limit in-person visits to retail locations, shop local and use curbside pickup, delivery, and online services, where possible.

Specific measures for Calgary, Edmonton, and surrounding communities

Mandatory mask requirements - Effective immediately, a new mandatory mask requirement for indoor workplaces is in place for Edmonton, Calgary and surrounding areas. This includes any location where

employees are present, and applies to visitors, including delivery personnel, and employees or contractors. This measure will be in place until further notice. All existing guidance and legal orders remain in place in all areas. Alberta Health, AHS and local municipalities continue to closely monitor the spread across the province.

November 12, 2020 - New health measures will help protect Alberta's health-care system, keep schools and businesses open, and protect vulnerable Albertans from COVID-19. There will be a two-week ban on group fitness classes, team sport activities and group performance activities in Edmonton and surrounding areas, Calgary and surrounding areas, Grande Prairie, Lethbridge, Fort McMurray and Red Deer. This will be in place from Nov. 13-27.

- In all regions under enhanced status, restaurants, bars, lounges and pubs will be required to stop liquor sales by 10 p.m. and close by 11 p.m. This will be in place from Nov. 13-27.
- In all regions under enhanced status, there are additional measures also being implemented:
 - 50-person limit on wedding ceremonies and funeral services.
 - All faith-based organizations should limit attendance at services to one-third of capacity.
 - It is strongly recommended that no social gatherings occur in private homes.
 - It is strongly recommended that Albertans living in areas under enhanced precautions not move social gatherings to neighbouring communities with lower rates.
 - Employers should reduce the number of staff in office buildings at any one time wherever possible.

All existing guidance, measures and legal orders remain in place in all areas. If these measures are not successful, it will be necessary to implement more restrictive measures.

October 29, 2020 - Effective Nov. 2, Alberta is removing runny nose and sore throat from the list of core symptoms requiring mandatory isolation for those under the age of 18. This includes the [daily checklist](#) used for school and child care settings. This change is only for those with no known exposure. If a child is a close contact or known to have been exposed in the previous 14 days and develops symptoms, testing is recommended and the child would still need to isolate. Also effective Nov. 2:

- If a child has only one of the non-core symptoms on the checklist, they should stay home and monitor for 24 hours. If their symptom is improving, testing is not necessary and they can return to normal activities when they feel well.
- If the child has two or more of the non-core symptoms, or if one of their symptoms gets worse, testing is still recommended and they should stay home until the symptoms go away or they test negative for COVID-19 and feel better.

The COVID-19 symptoms list for anyone over the age of 18, including teachers and daycare staff, remains unchanged. Health officials will continue to monitor evidence closely.

October 26, 2020 - Effective immediately, a mandatory 15-person limit on all social gatherings in the City of Edmonton and City of Calgary is in effect.

- This limit applies to gatherings such as dinner parties, wedding and funeral receptions, banquets and other gatherings.
- It does not currently change measures for structured events such as dining in restaurants, theatres, worship services or wedding and funeral ceremonies.

This temporary limit will be reassessed in one month. Along with the mandatory limit on social gatherings, voluntary public health measures remain in place for the entire Edmonton Zone and are also recommended for anyone living in or visiting the City of Calgary:

- Wear non-medical masks in all indoor work settings, except when alone in workspaces such as offices or cubicles where you can be safely distanced from others or an appropriate barrier is in place.
- Limit each individual to no more than three cohorts (a core/household cohort, a school cohort, and one additional sport, social or other cohort). Young children who attend child care may be part of four cohorts, as child care cohorts have not been seen to be a high-risk context for spread.

Surrounding communities in the Edmonton Zone should continue to follow the voluntary public health measures in place to mitigate the risk of spreading COVID-19. No additional measures are being implemented in the communities surrounding Calgary. All existing guidance and public health orders remain in place.

October 22, 2020 - A joint pilot program from the Government of Alberta and the Government of Canada – the first of its kind in the country – will safely test an alternative to the current 14-day quarantine requirement for international travellers while continuing to protect Canadians from COVID-19. The new pilot announced Oct. 22 will explore the feasibility of using a rigorous testing and monitoring program as a strategy to reduce the mandatory quarantine period, while keeping Canadians safe.

Beginning on Nov. 2, COVID-19 testing will be offered initially at two ports of entry into Canada: the Coutts land border crossing and the Calgary International Airport in Alberta. Travellers who participate will receive a COVID-19 test upon entry into Canada before proceeding into the required quarantine. Once the test comes back negative, they will then be allowed to leave their place of quarantine so long as they commit to getting a second test on day six or seven after arrival, at a community pharmacy participating in the pilot program. Participants will be closely monitored through daily symptoms checks. They will also be required to follow enhanced preventive health measures, such as wearing masks in public places and avoiding visiting high-risk groups.

October 21, 2020 - New legislation will introduce prompt payment timelines into Alberta's construction sector, ensuring contractors and subcontractors get paid on time. Proposed changes to the *Builders' Lien Act* are the first in almost 20 years and address long-standing concerns within the construction industry, including payment timelines, lien periods and adjudication. The proposed legislation would:

- Eliminate the need for contracted timelines by requiring owners, contractors and subcontractors to pay invoices within 28 days.
- Extend the deadline for unpaid contractors and subcontractors to file liens against a project with the government's Land Titles Office from 45 days to 60 days.
 - Workers in the concrete and oil and gas industries would have 90 days to file liens.
- Prohibit 'pay-when-paid' clauses from construction contracts to end the practice of transferring financial risk to subcontractors.
- Establish an adjudication system to resolve disputes, rather than rely on the courts.

October 20, 2020 – Alberta is pressing pause on asymptomatic COVID-19 testing to help reduce testing wait times, speed up results and limit the spread. Testing remains readily available for any Albertan with symptoms, as well as anyone who has no symptoms but is a close contact or is linked to an outbreak. As of Oct. 20, AHS and pharmacies will not book new appointments for Albertans seeking asymptomatic testing. All existing appointments will be honoured until Nov. 4.

October 13, 2020 - Effective Oct. 14, AHS assessment centres will move to an appointment-only approach. Drop-in options in Calgary and Edmonton will no longer be available to those patients who arrive without a prearranged appointment. Testing can be booked using the online screening tool at AHS.ca. Those who don't have access to a computer can call HealthLink at 811 to complete the assessment and booking process. Priority testing remains available across the province to: any person exhibiting any [symptom of COVID-19](#); all close contacts of confirmed COVID-19 cases; all workers and/or residents at specific outbreak sites. Voluntary asymptomatic testing is also available to: school teachers and staff; health-care workers; staff and residents at congregate living facilities, including long-term care; Albertans experiencing homelessness; travellers who require testing prior to departure. Asymptomatic testing will be offered to additional groups, if required. Albertans who don't have symptoms or exposure to COVID-19 should speak with their health-care provider if they have concerns about their health.

October 8, 2020 - Alberta's government is implementing [voluntary public health measures](#) to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 in Edmonton Zone and protect the health of Albertans. Effective immediately, all residents and visitors to the Edmonton Zone should:

- Limit their social and family gatherings to no more than 15 people.
- Wear non-medical masks in all indoor work settings, except when alone in workspaces, such as offices or cubicles, and where separated from others or an appropriate barrier is in place.
- Limit their number of cohorts to no more than three (a core/household cohort; a school cohort; and one additional sport, social or other cohort). Young children who attend childcare could be part of four cohorts, given that child care cohorts have not shown a high-risk of spreading COVID-19.

These additional public health measures are voluntary for the Edmonton Zone but strongly recommended. All existing guidance and public health orders remain in place. Alberta Health, Alberta Health Services and local partners in the Edmonton Zone will continue closely monitoring the spread in Edmonton and across the province to determine if additional recommendations should be made. All other health zones in the province must continue to follow the public health orders and guidance in place.

October 1, 2020 - Parents and guardians can now access the COVID-19 test results for children under the age of 18 through [MyHealth Records](#) (MHR) as soon as they are ready. To access children's test results, parents need to provide their personal health number and the date of their child's COVID-19 test. Albertans age 14 and older could already access their COVID-19 test results immediately after signing up without waiting for mail-out verification. Sign-up is free, the only requirement is an Alberta driver's licence or identification card.

Alberta's chief medical officer of health is not cancelling Halloween. Outdoor Halloween activities are lower risk and supported by public health. A new [tip sheet](#) online will help Albertans of all ages enjoy a safe and healthy Halloween. Printable posters will let people know if you are handing out treats.

September 28, 2020 - Alberta is splitting \$2.1 million among [seven research projects](#) that include antibody detection, serology testing, treatment strategies and the real-life experiences of patients and caregivers. Five projects will be at the University of Alberta, and two at the University of Calgary.

September 24, 2020 – In advance of Thanksgiving, the Alberta government has released a guideline for [safe holiday entertaining](#). This guideline is aimed to help families remain safe while enjoying the holiday.

September 22, 2020 - Licensed child care programs will receive \$87 million in new funding as part of Alberta's Recovery Plan and the federal Safe Restart agreement. Licensed day care, out-of-school care, family day homes, group family child care, innovative child care and preschool programs will benefit from grant payments.

- \$15 million already provided in September (\$109 per licensed/approved space).
- The Safe Restart Agreement payments will be distributed on Oct. 15 and Nov. 15 (\$200 per licensed/approved space, plus \$2,500 per licensed program or approved agency, each month).

These grants will help licensed and approved program operators purchase additional cleaning supplies, safety equipment, and any other upgrades necessary to comply with health guidelines without increasing parent fees

September 10, 2020 - A new [online map](#) which lists every school where there are two or more confirmed cases and an outbreak is declared. The map is updated daily and will also list schools that have shifted into scenario 2 or 3 to protect the health of students and staff. Work is underway to expand the map to include all schools where one confirmed case has been identified and alerts have been issued.

August 18, 2020 - Albertans with no symptoms of COVID-19 will now be able to access timely testing in their community by booking asymptomatic test appointments at Shoppers Drug Mart and pharmacies in stores owned by Loblaw. More than 50 Shoppers Drug Mart and Loblaw pharmacies in Real Canadian Superstore locations are already offering asymptomatic testing, and by September 1, 2020 all 234 of the company's pharmacies in Alberta (including pharmacies at Independent Foods, Extra Foods, City Market, and No Frills) will offer asymptomatic COVID-19 testing.

August 12, 2020 - the Alberta government has release the following recommendations for COVID-19 testing before the 2020-21 school year:

- Asymptomatic testing is recommended for all teachers and staff in the Early Childhood Services to Grade 12 education system prior to the start of the 2020-21 school year.
- Teachers and staff who wish to access asymptomatic testing are encouraged to book a test as soon as possible through Alberta Health Services using the online self-assessment tool or by contacting a participating local community pharmacy.
- Parents can continue to access testing for their children through Alberta Health Services. Testing is only recommended for those children with symptoms or pre-existing medical conditions that have symptoms similar to COVID-19.
- To ensure availability for teachers and staff, Albertans who are asymptomatic and have no known exposure to COVID are asked to wait until after Sept. 1 to access asymptomatic testing.
- Work is underway to expand Alberta's testing capacity and information about additional options for testing will be shared soon.

July 30, 2020 - Alberta is expanding asymptomatic testing at community pharmacies, helping more people access timely COVID-19 testing close to home. Any pharmacy in the province that wants to participate and is able to meet the safety requirements can now offer testing to Albertans who have no symptoms and no known exposure to COVID-19. The expanded pharmacy testing follows the success of Alberta's pilot program launched in June. An initial group of pilot pharmacies safely tested more than 10,300 Albertans, increasing testing capacity and helping support a safe relaunch. To date, almost

677,000 COVID-19 tests have been completed across the province. Asymptomatic testing is particularly encouraged:

- Before or after spending time with individuals who have a higher risk of serious health outcomes (e.g., anyone over 65 or with underlying medical conditions)
- Before or after travelling internationally, attending an event with recent travellers or hosting them.
- Before or after participating in activities or events that may have put you at a higher risk of exposure (e.g., a large gathering where physical distancing was not followed).
- For frontline workers who have regular interactions with Albertans, particularly those at higher risk of serious outcomes.

July 28, 2020 - Municipalities will receive \$1.1 billion to build core infrastructure that will get Albertans working, support municipal and public transit operating costs and create thousands of good-paying jobs now. Alberta's government is providing municipalities with \$500 million in additional funding to build shovel-ready infrastructure projects starting in 2020, creating thousands of jobs as part of Alberta's Recovery Plan. In addition, Alberta will match \$233 million in federal funding to support municipal operating costs during the pandemic and \$70 million to support public transit operating costs – for a total of \$606 million under the Safe Restart Agreement. Municipalities and Metis Settlements may begin applying for funding to build roads, bridges, water and wastewater treatment plants, and other important infrastructure that would not have been built in 2020 or 2021 without the stimulus.

July 21, 2020 - Students will return to learning in classrooms across Alberta at the beginning of the new school year. Alberta's government has developed a [re-entry tool kit](#) to prepare parents and students for what to expect in the new school year. The tool kit includes videos for students explaining some of the health measures, a guide for parents, frequently asked questions, school posters, a self-screening questionnaire in multiple languages, and links to health guidelines.

June 30, 2020 - More Albertans can attend outdoor community events. The outdoor gathering limit has been increased from 100 to 200 people. The increase applies to attendees at community outdoor events such as festivals, fireworks displays, rodeos and sporting events, and outdoor performances. All public health measures, including physical distancing, remain in place. Seated outdoor events will still require the necessary space between families and cohorts within stadium-style seating. Any large gathering increases the risk of transmission. Evidence suggests that outdoor events have a lower risk of transmission, provided other public health guidance is followed. Alberta Health will continue to monitor case numbers and adjust as necessary.

June 28, 2020 - Starting June 29, eligible small- and medium-sized businesses, co-ops and non-profits can apply for funding so they can open their doors and get Albertans back to work. The [Small and Medium Enterprise Relaunch Grant](#) offers financial assistance to Alberta businesses, cooperatives, and non-profit organizations that faced restrictions or closures from public health orders and experienced a revenue loss of at least 50 per cent due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Eligible job creators can apply for up to \$5,000 through this program. This relief for businesses and non-profits can be used to offset the costs they are facing as they reopen their doors. This includes the costs of implementing measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19, such as physical barriers, PPE and cleaning supplies, as well as rent, employee wages, replacing inventory and more. To be eligible, small- and medium-sized businesses, cooperatives and non-profits must have 500 or fewer employees.

June 25, 2020 - Alberta will offer asymptomatic COVID-19 testing at community pharmacies, making it easier for Albertans to access testing and help stop the spread. A limited number of community pharmacies will begin to offer testing to Albertans without symptoms and no known exposure to COVID-19. This is in addition to the robust COVID-19 testing already offered by Alberta Health Services. Alberta remains among the world leaders in COVID-19 testing per capita. More than 415,000 tests have been completed across the province.

June 19, 2020 – The Government of Alberta has awarded \$200 million in grants to municipalities across the province to upgrade local bridges, roads and community airports and make improvements to water supply and treatment facilities.

June 9, 2020 - Strong testing data shows active COVID-19 cases in Alberta are lower than expected, meaning stage two of the relaunch strategy can safely begin on **June 12**, a week sooner than expected.

What can open with restrictions

- K-12 schools, for requested diploma exams and summer school, following guidance
- Libraries
- More surgeries
- Wellness services such as massage, acupuncture and reflexology
- Personal services (esthetics, cosmetic skin and body treatments, manicures, pedicures, waxing, facial treatment, artificial tanning)
- Indoor recreation, fitness, and sports, including gyms and arenas
- Movie theatres and theatres
- Community halls
- Team sports
- Pools for leisure swimming
- VLTs in restaurants and bars
- Casinos and bingo halls (but not table games)
- Instrumental concerts

The 50 per cent capacity limit for provincial campgrounds is also being lifted. Over the coming days, the online reservation system will be updated and sites will come online in phases. By July 1, all camping sites will be open for reservations. First-come, first-served sites may open sooner. Information on additional sites will be added to alberta.parks.ca when they become available.

Events and gatherings can be larger in stage two

- Maximum 50 people: Indoor social gatherings – including wedding and funeral receptions, and birthday parties
- Maximum 100 people: Outdoor events and indoor seated/audience events – including wedding and funeral ceremonies
- No cap on the number of people (with public health measures and physical distancing in place):
 - Worship gatherings
 - Restaurants, cafés, lounges and bars
 - Casinos
 - Bingo halls
- There is more flexibility for ‘cohort’ groups – small groups of people whose members do not always keep two metres apart:
 - A household can increase its close interactions with other households to a maximum of 15 people

- Performers can have a cohort of up to 50 people (cast members or performers)
- Sports teams can play in region-only cohorts of up to 50 players (mini leagues)
- People could be part of a sports/performing and household cohort

Everyone is encouraged to follow public health guidelines and notify others in the cohort(s) if they have symptoms or test positive for COVID-19. If they do test positive or have symptoms, mandatory isolation is required.

Still not approved in stage two

- Social gatherings that exceed above listed maximums
- Regular in-school classes for kindergarten to Grade 12. Classes will resume September 2020
- Vocal concerts (as singing carries a higher risk of transmission)
- Major festivals and concerts, large conferences, trade shows and events (as these are non-seated social events and/or vocal concerts)
- Nightclubs
- Amusement parks
- Hookah lounges (permitted for food and drink only)
- Major sporting events and tournaments
- Non-essential travel outside the province is not recommended. This recommendation will not be lifted until stage three of the relaunch strategy.

The success of stage two will determine when Alberta progresses to stage three. Factors are active cases, health-care system capacity, hospitalization and intensive care unit (ICU) cases, and infection rates.

June 8, 2020 - Effective immediately, new billing codes for “virtual” patient visits via telephone and video calls introduced for the pandemic will become permanent. Virtual care has been an important part of the COVID-19 response, protecting patients, doctors, and clinic staff by providing an alternative to office visits that avoids the risk of contact with the virus. These visits have proved their value, so we’re making them permanent, to allow physicians and patients to keep using them as appropriate while being fairly compensated.

June 5, 2020 - To help ease the economic pinch, government is planning further measures including legislation to ensure commercial tenants will not face rent increases or be evicted for non-payment of rent due to the COVID-19 public health emergency. The new measures will help address shortfalls in the current Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance (CECRA) program, and will give eligible business owners piece of mind as they reopen and help with the provincial economic recovery.

May 29, 2020 – The AB Government’s relaunch strategy includes providing free non-medical masks to Albertans who need them. A&W, McDonald’s Restaurants of Canada Ltd. and Tim Hortons are partnering with the Alberta government to distribute non-medical masks at no cost through their drive-thru locations across the province, to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. Distribution will start in early June. Government is also working with municipalities, First Nations communities, Metis Settlements and local agencies to distribute the non-medical masks to those who need them, such as people who depend on public transit.

The mask distribution program is intended to supplement an individual’s efforts to acquire non-medical masks. Albertans who wish to use non-medical masks are encouraged to purchase their own supply from local retailers in addition to using those provided by government.

May 22, 2020 - A significant decline in the number of active cases of COVID-19 in Calgary and Brooks means both cities can reopen more businesses starting May 25. Starting May 25, hairstyling and barbershops will be permitted to reopen in Calgary and Brooks, and cafés, restaurants, pubs and bars can reopen for table service at 50 per cent capacity. This is in addition to the reopening of limited businesses and activities in these cities on May 14.

Stage one of Alberta's relaunch strategy puts safety first as restrictions are gradually lifted. Calgary and Brooks saw a more gradual reopening because of higher case numbers in these two communities. The delay was made to balance public safety with the need to get businesses open and services restored for Albertans.

May 20, 2020 – The Alberta government is enacting public health measures for international travellers to prevent the spread of travel-related COVID-19 cases. During the first phase, travellers arriving at the Calgary and Edmonton international airports from outside Canada will be required to pass through a provincial checkpoint where they will need to complete an Alberta isolation plan. Travellers will also undergo a thermal scan, as elevated body temperature is a potential symptom of COVID-19. As part of their isolation plan, travellers must detail if they have an appropriate place to isolate for the required 14 days, how they will travel to their isolation location, and their plans for getting essentials like food and medications. If required, provincial officials will help travellers access support to meet isolation requirements. Government officials will follow up with travellers within three days to ensure they are following public health orders and have the information and support they need.

May 14, 2020 - Stage one of Alberta's [relaunch strategy](#) puts safety first as restrictions are gradually lifted and Albertans begin to get back to work. All workplaces are expected to develop and implement policies and procedures to address COVID-19, including a plan to reduce the risk of transmission among staff and customers. The completed plan must be posted in places of business or online within seven days of the public being able to attend the business. Information and the plan template is available at alberta.ca/BizConnect.

May 13, 2020 – Alberta is moving into Stage of its re-launch plan. With increased infection prevention and control measures to minimize the risk of increased transmission of infections, some businesses and facilities can start to resume operations on May 14 in all areas except the cities of Calgary and Brooks:

- Retail businesses, such as clothing, furniture and bookstores. All vendors at farmers markets will also be able to operate.
- Museums and art galleries.
- Daycares and out-of-school care with limits on occupancy.
- Hairstyling and barbershops.
- Cafés, restaurants, pubs and bars will be permitted to reopen for table service only at 50 per cent capacity.
- Day camps, including summer school, will be permitted with limits on occupancy.
- Post-secondary institutions will continue to deliver courses; however, there will be more flexibility to include in-person delivery once the existing health order prohibiting in-person classes is lifted.
- Places of worship and funeral services, if they follow specific guidance already [online](#).
- The resumption of some scheduled, non-urgent surgeries will continue gradually.
- Regulated health professions are permitted to offer services as long as they continue to follow approved guidelines set by their professional colleges.

In Calgary and Brooks, the relaunch will be gradual over 18 days due to higher COVID-19 case numbers in these communities. To be clear, activities still not permitted in stage one are:

- Gatherings of more than 15 people unless otherwise identified in [public health orders](#) or [guidance](#).
- Gatherings of 15 people or fewer must follow personal distancing and other public health guidelines.
- Arts and culture festivals, major sporting events and concerts, all of which involve close physical contact.
- Movie theatres, theatres, pools, recreation centres, arenas, spas, gyms and nightclubs will remain closed.
- Services offered by allied health disciplines like acupuncture and massage therapy.
- Visitors to patients at health-care facilities will continue to be limited; however, outdoor visits are allowed with a designated essential visitor and one other person (a group of up to three people, including the resident), where space permits. However, physical distancing must be practised and all visitors must wear a mask or some other form of face covering.
- In-school classes for kindergarten to Grade 12 students.

May 11, 2020 - To support businesses reopening during stage one of Alberta's phased relaunch, government is launching a new resource to help them keep their staff and customers safer. The new alberta.ca/bizconnect webpage will provide business owners with information on health and safety guidelines for general workplaces and sector-specific guidelines for those able to open in stage one of relaunch to ensure businesses can reopen safely during the COVID-19 pandemic.

May 1, 2020 - As part of its relaunch strategy, the Government of Alberta has launched a voluntary, secure mobile contact tracing application to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. Contact tracing is currently performed by interviewing patients who have tested positive for COVID-19, which is resource intensive and has limitations on its effectiveness as it relies on the patient's memory. Through wireless Bluetooth technology, mobile contact tracing will complement the work of health-care workers and drastically speed up the current manual tracing process. This means Albertans will be contacted more quickly if they are at risk. The application is part of the Government of Alberta's Relaunch Strategy to safely begin to remove public health restrictions and reopen our economy. Existing public health measures remain in place to stop the spread of COVID-19. For more information, visit alberta.ca/covid-19.

April 30, 2020 – Alberta announced a phased to gradually reopen closed businesses and services and get people back to work. The plan to move forward requires careful and ongoing monitoring and respecting all guidelines outlined by the chief medical officer of health:

- Alberta Health Services will resume some scheduled, non-urgent surgeries as soon as **May 4**.
- Dental and other health-care workers, such as physiotherapists, speech language pathologists, respiratory therapists, audiologists, social workers, occupational therapists, dieticians and more, will be allowed to resume services starting **May 4**, as long as they are following approved guidelines set by their professional colleges.

Recognizing the role that access to the outdoors and recreation in the outdoors plays to Albertans' sense of well-being, access to provincial parks and public lands will be re-opened using a phased approach, beginning with:

- Vehicle access to parking lots and staging areas in parks and on public lands opening **May 1**.

- Opening a number of boat launches in provincial parks on **May 1** and working to have them all open by May 14. Check albertaparks.ca for the status of boat launches.
- Government is working hard to make campsites available as soon as possible, with the goal to have as many open as possible by June 1 so Albertans can enjoy our parks while adhering to current health orders. At this time, sites are open to Albertans only. Check albertaparks.ca for updates.
- Group and comfort camping will not be offered. Campground facility access restrictions to areas such as showers, picnic and cooking shelters will also be posted to albertaparks.ca.
- Alberta Parks' online reservation system will be available May 14 to book site visits beginning June 1. Out-of-province bookings will not be processed.
- No washrooms or garbage pickup will be available within provincial parks at this time. These services will be available as soon as Alberta Environment and Parks brings staff back. These seasonal positions represent an important opportunity for Albertans to secure employment during challenging economic times.
- Fire bans in parks, protected areas and the Forest Protection Area remain in place.
- No off-highway vehicle restrictions are currently in place. Local restrictions may be required if the risk for wildfires increases.
- Private and municipal campgrounds and parks can open with physical distancing restrictions, under their own local authority.
- Golf courses can open **May 2**, with restrictions including keeping clubhouses and pro shops closed. On-site shops and restaurants can open in stage one, consistent with other businesses and retailers.

Additional restrictions will be lifted in stages when safe. Before moving to stage one, several safeguards will be put in place:

- Enhancing nation-leading COVID-19 testing capacity at the highest level in Canada.
- Robust and comprehensive contact tracing, aided by technology, to quickly notify people who may have been exposed.
- Support for those who test positive for COVID-19, to enable isolation and effectively contain the spread.
- Stronger international border controls and airport screening, especially for international travellers.
- Rules and guidance for the use of masks in crowded spaces, especially on mass transit.
- Maintaining strong protections for the most vulnerable, including those in long-term care, continuing care and seniors lodges.

A rapid response plan is in place in the event of possible outbreaks of COVID-19. This includes outbreak protocols to quickly identify close contacts in order to stop spread, making testing widely available including testing those without symptoms in outbreak settings, and providing temporary housing for isolation and other necessary supports for anyone at risk.

Physical distancing requirements of two metres will remain in place through all stages of relaunch and hygiene practices will continue to be required of businesses and individuals, along with instructions for Albertans to stay home when exhibiting symptoms such as cough, fever, shortness of breath, runny nose, or sore throat.

Progress to Stage 1 will occur once health measures are achieved to the satisfaction of the government based on the advice of the chief medical officer of health, as early as **May 14**. Further details of each

stage can be found here: <https://www.alberta.ca/release.cfm?xID=70217037B8E9C-C319-32CC-240D33487895E4F7>

April 24, 2020 - Alberta has joined other provinces, the territories and federal government in a program to help small businesses pay rent. The new Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance (CECRA) program will give certainty to small businesses by providing 50 per cent of monthly commercial rental costs. Eligible landlords and tenants would each be responsible for 25 per cent of the remaining costs. About the CECRA:

- CECRA will provide a loan retroactive to April 1 to qualified commercial property owners supporting 50 per cent of rent for April, May, and June of this year.
- The loan will be forgivable if the property owner and tenant come to a rent forgiveness agreement that lowers the eligible small business's rent by 75 per cent for the three months and includes a moratorium on eviction.
- The program is anticipated to be running by mid-May and will be administered by the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC).
- Qualifying small businesses will be required to:
 - pay less than \$50,000 in rent
 - have been asked to close, or near-close their operations due to COVID-19
 - be experiencing at least a 70 per cent decrease in revenues
- CECRA will also be available to non-profit and charitable organizations.
- The province expects to commit up to \$67 million, with the remaining and majority of costs being covered by the federal government.

Further details on CECRA will be shared by CMHC in the coming weeks when final terms and conditions are available. Until that time, property owners are encouraged to provide flexibility to tenants facing hardship in this uncertain time.

April 14, 2020 – The government is moving forward with tender packages for the design and construction of four K-9 and one K-4 school projects that will be located throughout the province.

April 9, 2020 – Doubled capital maintenance and renewal (CMR) funding in 2020-21 from \$937 million to \$1.9 billion by accelerating the capital plan, getting thousands of Albertans back to work resurfacing roads, repairing bridges, restoring schools, fixing potholes and more.

April 6, 2020 – Confirmation of temporary rules in place to provide job protection for workers and flexibility for employers during this pandemic. The changes take effect immediately and will be in place as long as government determines it is needed and the public health emergency order remains.

Changes for employees

- Employees caring for children affected by school and daycare closures or ill or self-isolated family members due to COVID-19 will have access to unpaid job-protected leave. The 90-day employment requirement is waived and leave length is flexible.

Changes for employees and employers

- Increasing the maximum time for a temporary layoff from 60 days to 120 days to ensure temporarily laid off employees stay attached to a job longer. This change is retroactive for any temporary layoffs related to COVID-19 that occurred on or after March 17.

Changes for employers

- Improving scheduling flexibility by removing the 24-hour written notice requirement for shift changes, and the two weeks' notice for changes to work schedules for those under an averaging agreement.

- Removing the requirement to provide the group termination notice to employees and unions when 50 or more employees are being terminated.
- Streamlining the process for approvals related to modifying employment standards so employers and workers can respond quicker to changing conditions at the workplace due to the public health emergency.

March 27, 2020 – To protect the health and safety of Albertans, mass gatherings will be limited to 15 people. Alberta has also announced its list of essential services. Workplaces that have not been ordered to close can continue to have more than 15 workers on a worksite as long as those business maintain public health measures, including two metre social distancing, hygiene enforcement and processes that ensure that any person who is ill does not attend these spaces. List of essential services can be found here: <https://www.alberta.ca/essential-services.aspx>

March 25, 2020 – Public health orders will now be enforced by law to protect the health and safety of Albertans. Fines for violating an order have increased to a prescribed fine of \$1,000 per occurrence. Courts will also have increased powers to administer fines of up to \$100,000 for a first offence and up to \$500,000 for a subsequent offence for more serious violations.

- Public health orders will include mandatory self-isolation for travellers returning from outside of Canada for 14 days, plus an additional 10 days from the onset of any symptoms should they occur, whichever is longer.
- This legal requirement also applies to close contacts of confirmed COVID-19 cases, as well as to any individual with COVID-19 symptoms, which consist of a cough, fever, shortness of breath, runny nose, or sore throat.
- Orders regarding restrictions around mass gatherings, public recreational facilities, private entertainment facilities, and visitations to long-term care and other continuing care facilities are also enforceable, along with any future public health orders.

March 23, 2020 – Additional Financial Support for Albertans and employers:

- Effective immediately, the government will defer education property tax for businesses for six months.
- Private sector employers will have immediate financial relief by deferring WCB premiums until early 2021, effectively for one year.
- For small and medium businesses, the government will cover 50 per cent of the premium when it is due.

March 20, 2020 - Job Protection Measures announced to allow full and part-time employees to take 14 days of job-protected leave if they are required to self-isolate, and/or they are caring for a child or dependent adult that is required to self-isolate. This legislation is retroactive to March 5, 2020. At this time, this new job-protected leave is meant to cover the 14-day self-isolation period recommended by Alberta's Chief Medical Officer. The duration of this leave could be extended as the virus continues to unfold and medical recommendations are adjusted accordingly. Where this leave is not appropriate or insufficient for the employee's particular circumstances, employees can request to use their vacation pay or banked overtime, but employers are not required to grant the request. Similarly, employers may request that employees voluntarily take vacation leave and/or use their vacation pay or banked overtime, however, the employer cannot unilaterally enforce this on employees under provincial employment standards.

March 19, 2020 - To ease pressure on businesses in Alberta, corporate income tax balances and instalment payments will be deferred until August 31, 2020. This measure provides an estimated \$1.5 billion in available access to cash to enable employers to focus on continuing to pay employees, address debts, and sustain operations during this pandemic period. Employees may also benefit from a six-month interest free moratorium on student loans and mortgage payments beginning March 30, 2020. Individuals will not need to apply for the repayment pause.

March 18, 2020 – As a supplement to the Federal government’s EI measures, the Alberta government will launch an Emergency Isolation Support program meant to bridge employees until the federal Emergency Benefit Care payments are available in early to mid-April. The Emergency Isolation Report is budgeted to provide \$1,146 as a one-time payment to employees in self-isolation, who are also not eligible for, and not receiving EI benefits during this time. The \$1,146 one-time payment matches two normal maximum EI payments, equivalent to approximately \$573 each.

March 16, 2020 - Premier Kenney announced the Government of Alberta’s intention to introduce paid (through EI) leave during the 14 day isolation period recommended by Alberta’s Chief Medical Officer (CMO), as a means of managing, in part, the effect of the pandemic on employers, their employees, and their workplaces. This 14 days of paid job-protected leave for any employees who are required to self-isolate, or those who are sick or caring for a loved one with COVID-19, will be implemented under the Alberta *Employment Standards Code* (the “Code”). Employees will not be required to produce a medical note, nor do they need to have worked for their employer for more than 90 days to be eligible for the new leave.

British Columbia:

February 17, 2022 – The provincial health officer (PHO) has updated the Provincial Health Officer Order on Workplace Safety, to support the transition of employees back into the workplace. The previous version of the order contained a section that has been removed. That section required employers to allow workers to work from their private residence, if possible, given the nature of the work involved, unless the employer had an operational requirement to have the worker at the workplace.

All workplaces must continue to have COVID-19 safety plans in place, and the PHO's Face Coverings Order continues to apply to some workplaces. The Province and the PHO recognize that every workplace is different. Many workplaces will be able to transition to in-person work again quickly. Others may wish to continue with remote or hybrid models. Workplaces and businesses are encouraged to choose the option that works best for them.

February 15, 2022 – While keeping the BC Vaccine Card, indoor masking requirements and COVID-19 safety plans in place, the provincial health officer will lift restrictions on personal gatherings, organized gatherings and events, nightclubs, bars and restaurants, exercise and fitness, and adult sports tournaments as of Wednesday, Feb. 16, 2022, at 11:59 p.m. (Pacific time). Capacity limits will return to normal.

January 25, 2022 – It has been announced that the B.C. Vaccine Card will remain in effect until June 30, 2022. The vaccine card will be reviewed regularly and stopped sooner if the situation changes. Sport tournaments for children and youth will resume effective Feb. 1, 2022. The prohibition on adult tournaments will continue to be in effect.

December 21, 2021 – The provincial health officer is implementing additional measures to address rising COVID-19 case counts that could result in increased hospitalizations and critical care admissions and the potential to overstress the health-care system. Revised provincial health officer orders will take effect on Wednesday, Dec. 22, 2021, at 11:59 p.m. The restrictions will extend to Jan. 18, 2022, at 11:59 p.m., and include:

- no organized indoor social events and gatherings of any size;
- concerts, sports games and theatres reduced to 50% seated capacity, regardless of venue size;
- closing gyms, fitness centres and dance studios;
- closing bars and nightclubs; and
- limiting table sizes at restaurants, cafes and pubs to a maximum of six people per table with physical distancing or barriers.

These restrictions are in addition to the revised orders that took effect on Monday, Dec. 20.

December 17, 2021 – To address rising COVID-19 case counts and keep people safe, the provincial health officer is issuing revised orders, which take effect on Monday, Dec. 20, 2021. Measures will extend to Jan. 31, 2022, at 11:59 p.m., and include:

- limiting indoor, personal gatherings, including in rental and vacation properties to the household/residents plus 10 individuals, or one additional household maximum if all are aged 12 and older are fully vaccinated;

- requiring the BC Vaccine Card for organized events of all sizes and ensuring the QR code is scanned at events;
- seating requirements and restricting movement between tables at food and liquor-serving premises, and reinforcing the need to wear masks when not seated;
- limiting venues of 1,000 individuals or more to 50% of the seated capacity with reinforced masking requirements and scanning of the BC Vaccine Card QR code;
- pausing all sports tournaments while the order is in effect; and
- all New Year's Eve organized gatherings and events will be restricted to being seated-only events, with no mingling or dancing allowed.

In addition to the provincial health officer orders, British Columbians are advised to limit indoor gatherings to those who are fully vaccinated, to ensure proper ventilation indoors, to avoid all travel if not fully vaccinated and to follow the travel advisory issued by the federal government to avoid non-essential travel outside of Canada.

November 23, 2021 – Health Canada approved the Pfizer vaccine for children five to 11. This vaccine uses a lower dose (10 micrograms), at one-third of the dose formulated for older children and adults, which will provide effective protection tailored to children's immune systems. The National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) advises that children receive a two-dose series of the vaccine with an interval of eight weeks or more between the first and second dose. Parents and guardians who have registered their child with Get Vaccinated will begin receiving invitations on Monday, Nov. 29, 2021, to book appointments. Registration ensures parents are notified by text or email when it is time to book their child's appointment.

October 29, 2021 – British Columbia's provincial health officer has extended the mask mandate that requires masks be worn in all indoor public spaces throughout B.C. Masks are required in all public indoor settings for all people five and older, regardless of vaccination status. These settings include:

- malls, shopping centres, coffee shops and retail and grocery stores;
- liquor and drug stores;
- airports, city halls, libraries, community and recreation centres;
- restaurants, pubs and bars (unless seated);
- on public transportation, in a taxi or ride-sharing vehicle;
- areas of office buildings where services to the public are provided;
- common areas of sport and fitness centres when not engaged in physical activity;
- common areas of post-secondary institutions and non-profit organizations; and
- inside schools for all K-12 staff, visitors and students.

October 26, 2021 – More people in B.C. will start to receive invitations for a COVID-19 booster shot as the Province continues its COVID-19 immunization plan, prioritizing B.C.'s elderly and most at-risk through to the December holiday. The plan expands to include all British Columbians 12+ beginning in January 2022.

October 21, 2021 – Due to the ongoing fourth wave of the pandemic, the Province intends to introduce amendments to the COVID-19 Related Measures Act to extend it beyond the repeal date of Dec. 31, 2021. The act provides statutory authority for various COVID-19 related orders that were introduced to respond to and minimize the effect of the pandemic. This includes orders:

- to allow for remote witnessing of the signing of key legal documents;
- to allow the courts to specify that court proceedings can be conducted remotely; and
- to support orders of the provincial health officer that impose conditions on the number of long-term care facilities staff are permitted to work at to help reduce COVID-19 transmission.

Additionally, the act provides civil liability protection to certain individuals or businesses that are providing an essential service, operating a business or engaged in an activity that benefits the community, as long as they are following the necessary public health orders.

October 19, 2021 – On Sunday, Oct. 24, 2021, full vaccination will be required to access certain events, services and businesses. More people will be able to come together at organized gatherings and events in parts of the province where vaccination rates are high. The requirement to remain seated at a table in restaurants and pubs will be lifted. Indoor mask requirements remain in effect for all indoor gatherings and events. Capacity limits remain in effect where regional orders are in place, including Fraser East and parts of Northern and Interior Health regions.

October 14, 2021 – Northern Health (NH) is introducing new public health orders covering most of the NH region to manage COVID-19 activity. Effective at midnight Thursday October 14, 2021 the entire Northern Health region, (with the exception of Local Health areas west of Gitwagak: Terrace, Kitimat, Haida Gwaii, Prince Rupert, Stikine, Telegraph Creek, Snow Country and Nisga'a) are under the following additional orders:

- Personal gatherings, both indoor and outdoor, are restricted to fully vaccinated people, including at private residences and vacation accommodation
 - Indoor gathering: up to 5 people are permitted
 - Outdoor gathering: up to 25 people are permitted
- All indoor and outdoor organized events require a safety plan and for attendees to wear a mask and present their BC Vaccine Card showing they are fully vaccinated
 - Indoor event: up to 50 people are permitted
 - Outdoor event: up to 100 people are permitted
- Worship services: virtual services are required
- Restaurants:
 - Fast-food restaurants and unlicensed cafés without table service can provide take-out only or require patrons to present the BC Vaccine card showing they are fully vaccinated.
 - Licensed establishments and those with table service must not serve alcohol between 10pm-9am and must require patrons to present the BC Vaccine Card showing they are fully vaccinated.
- Bars and nightclubs (no meal service) will be closed
- Sport events spectators (indoor and outdoor) are limited to 50% capacity, must have a safety plan, and require attendees to wear masks and present their BC Vaccine Card showing they are fully vaccinated

September 15, 2021 – Starting Monday, Sept. 27, 2021, the BC Vaccine Card will be the only acceptable proof of vaccination for British Columbians to enjoy certain businesses and recreational events safely. The BC Vaccine Card requirement is applied in certain discretionary settings, including most restaurants and indoor events, through provincial health officer orders. This requirement helps ensure that

businesses can stay open and people can feel safe in these settings, while continuing to increase vaccinations throughout the province.

September 13, 2021 – The BC Vaccine Card is now in effect throughout British Columbia, bringing people together to enjoy certain businesses and recreational events safely. Starting Sept. 13, 2021, new COVID-19 vaccine requirements will apply so businesses can stay open and people can feel safe in these settings, while vaccination rates continue to rise. People can get their BC Vaccine Card online: gov.bc.ca/vaccinecard and keep a digital copy on their mobile device by taking a screen shot or printing a hard copy to present when entering designated businesses and events.

September 7, 2021 – The Province is launching the BC Vaccine Card, a digital or printed document that shows the stage cardholders are at in their COVID-19 vaccine progress. The BC Vaccine Card will allow vaccinated people to conveniently and securely show their proof of vaccination at higher-risk social and recreational events and settings when new COVID-19 vaccine requirement rules take effect on Sept. 13, 2021. People can get their BC Vaccine Card online at gov.bc.ca/vaccinecard. Once verified, a person will be able to save a digital copy to their mobile device or print a hard copy to present along with their government-issued photo identification when entering designated businesses and events.

August 24, 2021 – As of Wednesday, Aug. 25, 2021, masks must be worn in all indoor public spaces throughout B.C. to help slow the transmission of COVID-19 as B.C. prepares for the fall and respiratory illness season. A new order from the provincial health officer will require people 12 and older to wear masks in indoor public settings, regardless of vaccination status. These settings include:

- malls, shopping centres, coffee shops and retail and grocery stores;
- liquor and drug stores;
- airports, city halls, libraries, community and recreation centres;
- restaurants, pubs and bars (unless seated);
- on public transportation, in a taxi or ride-sharing vehicle;
- areas of office buildings where services to the public are provided;
- common areas of sport and fitness centres when not engaged in physical activity;
- common areas of post-secondary institutions and non-profit organizations; and
- inside schools for all K-12 staff, visitors and students in grades 4-12.

August 23, 2021 – Starting Sept. 13, 2021, proof of vaccination will be required in B.C. for people attending certain social and recreational settings and events. A new order from the provincial health officer will require individuals to provide proof of vaccination to access a broad range of social, recreational, and discretionary events and businesses throughout the province. As of Sept. 13, one dose of vaccine will be required for entry to these settings. By Oct. 24, entry to these settings will require people to be fully vaccinated at least seven days after receiving both doses. To enter certain spaces, including indoor ticketed sporting events, indoor and patio dining in restaurants, fitness centres, casinos and indoor organized events, like conferences and weddings, people aged 12 and older will be required to show their proof of vaccination. A secure weblink will be provided and publicized before Sept. 13, where people will be able to confidentially access their proof of vaccination. Individuals will be able to save a copy of their proof of vaccination to their phone to show it when entering or using designated businesses and events. Individuals who cannot access their proof of vaccination online will be provided with a secure alternative option.

August 13, 2021 – All residents and visitors of the central Okanagan are required to restrict social gatherings and events. These include:

- A maximum group size of six when dining indoors or outdoors.
- Liquor service while dining will stop at 10 p.m.
- The closure of nightclubs and bars and the suspension of high-intensity group fitness classes.
- Personal gatherings: No more than 50 people can attend outdoors and indoor gatherings are limited to household members plus five other guests (or one household).
- Organized gatherings: Limited to no more than 50 people, whether indoor or outdoor; must have a COVID-19 safety plan in place.

August 3, 2021 – All residents and visitors of the central Okanagan who are ages 12 and up are again required to wear face coverings in all public spaces, which is to include all common areas of an office building. It is also recommended outdoors if you cannot maintain appropriate physical distance.

June 29, 2021 – The Province is safely moving to Step 3 of its four-step restart plan on July 1, 2021. During Step 3, businesses will gradually transition to new communicable disease plans, with guidelines for these plans released by WorkSafeBC on June 28. These guidelines were developed in consultation with public health and businesses will continue to be supported by WorkSafeBC and the PHO as they transition. These plans will continue to include physical barriers at many business and retail settings. Capacity limits, formal health screening tests and directional arrows, as well as other physical distancing measures will no longer be required. However, they may still be used during this transition period. Moving from Step 2 to Step 3 also includes:

- return to normal for indoor and outdoor personal gatherings;
- maximum capacity for indoor organized gatherings of 50 people or up to 50% of a venue's total capacity, whichever is greater;
- maximum capacity for outdoor organized gatherings of 5,000 people or up to 50% of a venue's total capacity, whichever is greater;
- return to normal for fairs, festivals and trade shows, with communicable disease plans;
- return to Canada-wide recreational travel;
- reopening of casinos, with reduced capacity and ~50% of gaming stations permitted to open;
- reopening of nightclubs, with up to 10 people seated at tables, no socializing between tables and no dancing;
- return to normal hours for liquor service at restaurants, bars and pubs with table limits to be determined by venue and no socializing between tables;
- return to normal for sports and exercise facilities, with communicable disease plans; and
- mask wearing recommended in indoor public spaces for all people 12 and older who are not yet fully vaccinated.

June 17, 2021 – Starting Thursday, June 17, 2021, employers can apply for reimbursement of wages paid to workers who have taken sick leave related to COVID-19. The temporary reimbursement program is retroactive to May 20, when legislation was passed, to ensure sick workers can stay home for up to three days without losing wages, while supporting businesses during the pandemic. WorkSafeBC is administering the program with funding from government. WorkSafeBC's IT systems and employer information allowed it to set up a new process to deliver the reimbursement program on behalf of government, which will be available to employers until Dec. 31, 2021. The program is not part of the workers' compensation system and will not affect WorkSafeBC's employer premiums or its accident fund. Costs of administering the program will also be covered by government.

June 14, 2021 – Beginning on Tuesday, June 15, 2021, British Columbia will take the next step in safely bringing people back together, transitioning into Step 2 of BC's Restart plan, including lifting restrictions on travel within B.C. The transition into Step 2 of the four-step restart plan aligns with key metrics for moving forward. More than 75% of adults are vaccinated with their first dose, exceeding the target Step 2 minimum threshold of 65%. The other metrics for moving through the stages – COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations – continue to steadily decline. Public health safety protocols, such as mask wearing in all indoor public spaces and physical distancing, will remain in place during Step 2. As well, personal indoor gatherings will be limited to five visitors, or one other household. Moving from Step 1 to Step 2 includes:

- B.C. recreational travel – non-essential travel ban lifted. Out-of-province non-essential travel advisory continues;
- maximum of 50 people for outdoor personal gatherings;
- maximum of 50 people for indoor seated organized gatherings (e.g., movie theatres, live theatre, banquet halls) with safety plans;
- indoor faith gatherings – a maximum of 50 people, or 10% of a place of worship's total capacity, whichever number is greater – with safety plans;
- maximum of 50 spectators for outdoor sports;
- liquor service at restaurants, bars and pubs extended until midnight; and
- indoor sports games (no spectators) and high-intensity fitness with safety plans.

All other capacity limits and guidelines listed in Step 1 stay in place unless noted in the list above. The earliest target start date for Step 3 is July 1, and Sept. 7 for Step 4.

May 25, 2021 – British Columbia is moving forward with the cautious first step of a four-step plan for a careful and safe restart. The step-by-step plan will follow approximate timelines and will ease people and businesses slowly out of the pandemic. The four steps are:

Step 1: May 25

- 60% of adult population with Dose 1
- COVID-19 cases stable, hospitalizations stable
 - Maximum of five visitors or one household allowed for indoor personal gatherings
 - Maximum of 10 people for outdoor personal gatherings
 - Maximum of 10 people for seated indoor organized gatherings with safety protocols
 - Maximum of 50 people for seated outdoor organized gatherings with safety protocols
 - Recreational travel only within travel region (travel restrictions extended)
 - Indoor and outdoor dining for up to six people with safety protocols
 - Resume outdoor sports (games) with no spectators, low-intensity fitness with safety protocols
 - Start gradual return to workplaces
 - Provincewide mask mandate, business safety protocols and physical distancing measures remain in place
 - Return of indoor in-person faith-based gatherings (reduced capacity) based on consultation with public health

Step 2: Mid-June (June 15 – earliest date)

- 65% of adult population with Dose 1
- Cases declining, COVID-19 hospitalizations declining
 - Maximum of 50 people for outdoor social gatherings
 - Maximum of 50 people for seated indoor organized gatherings (banquet halls, movie theatres, live theatre) with safety protocols

- Consultation process to prepare for larger indoor and outdoor gatherings with safety protocols
- No B.C. travel restrictions – check local travel advisories
- Indoor sports (games) and high-intensity fitness with safety protocols
- Spectators for outdoor sports (50 maximum)
- Provincewide mask mandate, business safety protocols and physical distancing measures remain in place

Step 3: Early July (July 1 – earliest date)

- 70% of adult population with Dose 1
- Cases low, COVID-19 hospitalizations declining
 - Provincial state of emergency and public health emergency lifted
 - Returning to usual for indoor and outdoor personal gatherings
 - Increased capacity for indoor and outdoor organized gatherings, with safety plans
 - Nightclubs and casinos reopen with capacity limits and safety plans
 - New public health and workplace guidance around personal protective equipment, physical distancing and business protocols

Step 4: Early September (Sept. 7 – earliest date)

- More than 70% of adult population with Dose 1
- Cases low and stable (contained clusters), COVID-19 hospitalizations low
 - Returning to normal social contact
 - Increased capacity at larger organized gatherings
 - No limits on indoor and outdoor spectators at sports
 - Businesses operating with new safety plans

All updated workplace safety plans should be ready by July 1 prior to shifting into Step 3. These plans will be based on updated sector guidelines.

May 18, 2021 - Masks are now required to be worn at all times in fitness facilities, including during workouts. The change to the EPA order allows police and other officials to enforce this new guidance at their discretion. Face shields are not a substitute for a mask as there is an opening below the mouth.

May 11, 2021 – To better support workers during the pandemic, amendments to the Employment Standards Act will bring in three days of paid sick leave related to COVID-19, such as having symptoms, self-isolating and waiting for a test result. Employers will be required to pay workers their full wages and the Province will reimburse employers without an existing sick leave program up to \$200 per day for each worker to cover costs. To support this leave, WorkSafeBC will set up and, beginning next month, administer the employer reimbursement program on behalf of the Province. This will include reimbursing employers up to \$200 per day per worker.

April 30, 2021 – The Province has authorized site-specific road checks on travel corridors between regions to help enforce the non-essential travel restrictions that were announced on April 23, 2021.

April 28, 2021 – Amendments to the Employment Standards Act providing workers with up to three hours of paid leave to get each dose of their COVID-19 vaccine are now in effect, retroactive to April 19, 2021. Bill 3 is now law and ensures that no employee will lose pay if they need time away from work to get vaccinated. Both full-time and part-time employees can take up to three hours of paid leave

April 23, 2021 – The B.C. government has issued a new order using the extraordinary powers of the Emergency Program Act to prohibit non-essential travel between three regional zones in the province, using health authority boundaries. The regional zones are:

- Lower Mainland and Fraser Valley (Fraser Health and Coastal Health regions);
- Vancouver Island (Island Health region); and
- Northern/Interior (Interior Health and Northern Health regions).

While the order puts legal limits only on travel between regional zones, the PHO's guidance remains unchanged throughout B.C.: everyone should continue to stay within their local community – essential travel only. This order will be in effect from April 23 through May 25, 2021, (after the May long weekend). It applies to everyone in the province, including non-essential travellers from outside the province.

April 19, 2021 – The B.C. government has introduced amendments to the Employment Standards Act that, if passed, will provide workers with up to three hours of paid leave to get each dose of their COVID-19 vaccine. If passed, the effective date will be retroactive to the date of introduction (April 19, 2021).

As a result of the current levels of transmission in B.C., the provincial health officer orders that were set to expire today will be extended for a further five weeks, through to May 24, 2021, at midnight. This includes the current restrictions on restaurants, pubs, bars and indoor group fitness activities. The Expedited Workplace Closure order also remains in place. New orders are expected under the Emergency Program Act, to restrict vacation and recreation travel outside of your health authority.

April 8, 2021 – Starting Monday, when the public health investigation determines that transmission has occurred at the workplace, an order may be issued closing the workplace for 10 days or longer to stop the transmission. In the case of complex workplaces (e.g., large construction sites), the closure may be restricted to those parts of the workplace where transmission has occurred.

Public health will also assess whether there is an overriding public interest to keep the workplace open. This would apply to such locations as police stations, fire halls, health-care facilities, schools, shelters, the ferry system, public transportation and distribution hubs of necessary goods such as food and medicine, pharmacies and grocery stores.

When a closure is ordered, WorkSafeBC will serve the closure notice and will then support the workplace to review and enhance safety plans, as needed. A list of workplaces that have been closed and the date of their reopening will be posted on the health authority websites. In all cases additional outbreak control measures, including contact tracing and immunization will continue under public health direction.

March 29, 2021 – The provincial health officer amended the provincial public health orders effective midnight tonight, March 30, 2021. New and amended orders and guidelines are in effect through April 19, 2021, and include:

- For restaurants, bars and pubs, all food and liquor-serving premises must only provide take-out or delivery service. Dine-in service is prohibited, except for outdoor patios. People dining on patios should do so with their immediate household or core bubble.

- Indoor, adult group fitness activities of any kind are also paused. Gyms and fitness centres are restricted to individual or one-on-one activities only i.e. one-on-one personal training.
- The previously announced class variance for limited indoor worship services has been suspended. Outdoor worship services under the current variance may continue.
- Travel continues to be limited to essential travel, work or medical reasons only. For those who have travelled outside their health region, if you or anyone in your family develops any signs of illness, you must stay home from work, school or daycare, and arrange to get tested immediately.
- Whistler-Blackcomb ski resort is closed through to April 19, 2021, to address and prevent community spread related to non-essential travel.
- All workers are strongly encouraged to work from home, where possible.
- Public health guidance for schools has also been amended to support and encourage students down to Grade 4 to wear masks while at school.

March 25, 2021 – Fines for promoting and attending gatherings that contravene the provincial health officer's (PHO) order just got more expensive. An amendment to the Violation Ticket Administration and Fine Regulation raises the fine for promoting and for attending a non-compliant gathering or event from \$230 to \$575. The current fine for those who organize or host a prohibited event remains the same at \$2,300.

March 23, 2021 – People at higher risk from COVID-19 due to existing medical conditions, such as various forms of cancer, transplant recipients and severe respiratory conditions, will be able to register for their COVID-19 vaccine beginning Monday, March 29, 2021.

March 18, 2021 - More than 300,000 front-line workers, including first responders, grocery store employees, and teachers and child care workers, will be eligible for COVID-19 vaccinations over the coming weeks as the Province's COVID-19 Immunization Plan moves forward ahead of schedule.

March 11, 2021 - The provincial health officer (PHO) order on gatherings and events has been amended to allow for outdoor gatherings of up to 10 people. There are no changes to the current restrictions on indoor gatherings – in homes or elsewhere. The requirements for restaurants and bars also continue. This is a slow turning of the dial.

March 1, 2021 – More than 400,000 people in British Columbia will be immunized from March to early April as the Province moves into Phase 2 of its immunization rollout. Those in Phase 2 receiving their first vaccine dose in March and early April include:

- seniors and high-risk people residing in independent living and seniors' supportive housing (including staff);
- home-care support clients and staff;
- Indigenous (First Nations, Métis, Inuit) peoples born in or before 1956 (65 years and older); and
- seniors born in or before 1941 (80 years and older).

February 4, 2021 - Enhanced safety measures and \$121.2 million in federal funding are on the way, as the Province continues to strengthen health and safety plans in K-12 schools to keep students, teachers and staff safe during the pandemic. All middle and secondary students and K-12 staff will now be required to wear non-medical masks in all indoor areas, including when they are with their learning groups. The only exceptions are when:

- sitting or standing at their seat or workstation in a classroom;
- there is a barrier in place; or
- they are eating or drinking.

Guidelines have also been strengthened for physical education and music classes. High-intensity physical activities are to be held outside as much as possible. Shared equipment or items, such as weight machines, treadmills or musical instruments, can be used only if they are cleaned between use, according to strict school sanitization guidelines. Students using equipment or playing instruments should also be spaced at least two metres apart and masks are to be used when singing.

January 29, 2021 - Premier John Horgan announced that he welcomes the new international travel measures announced by the federal government today. These steps will strengthen the health and safety screenings at our borders and help keep British Columbians and all Canadians safer. These new measures build on British Columbia's requirement for all international travellers to have self-isolation plans in April 2020. BC's message about non-essential travel remains the same: if you do not need to travel, don't. Any travel beyond your local community, unless it is absolutely essential for work or medical care, is strongly discouraged right now. This applies to everyone in British Columbia and anyone considering a visit to our province. Now is not the time to travel. With vaccines on the way, we look forward to the day when we can once again welcome visitors to B.C. safely. Until then, we ask everyone to please stay home.

January 21, 2021 – The province will not be imposing travel restrictions at this time. If they see transmission increase due to interprovincial travel, they will impose stronger restrictions on non-essential travellers. They will continue to work with the tourism and hospitality sectors to make sure all possible safety precautions are in place.

January 18, 2021 - Starting today, the BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) will provide a vaccine dashboard. Initially, the dashboard will publish provincewide data, but will be expanded to include specific health authority information. This dashboard is in addition to the weekly vaccine report, also available on the BCCDC website.

January 8, 2021 - The Province is fine-tuning compliance and enforcement provisions for orders on face coverings, gatherings and events, and food and liquor serving premises. The intent of the orders remains unchanged and will continue to allow violation tickets to be issued to non-compliant persons, owners and operators, and hosts to ensure public safety and alleviate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Changes include:

- more clarity around the specific prohibitions found in public health orders for gatherings and events and for food and liquor serving premises; and
- an amended face coverings order, with an additional exemption for persons who need to remove a face covering to communicate with a person who is hearing impaired. No other substantive policy changes have been made.

British Columbians are reminded under current public health orders, police and provincial enforcement officers can issue:

- \$2,300 tickets to hosts/organizers who do not comply with the provincial health officer's (PHO) orders;
- \$230 tickets to patrons/attendees who do not comply with the PHO orders;
- \$230 tickets for contravening the face coverings order; and
- \$230 tickets for abusive or belligerent behaviour and/or for refusing to comply with the direction of enforcement officers.

In addition, courts can impose penalties of up to \$10,000 and/or up to one-year imprisonment for egregious offences.

January 7, 2021 - The current provincial health officer's orders on all gatherings and events have been extended through to Feb. 5, 2021, at midnight. The same restriction, including on social gatherings in people's homes and in public venues, and all events and sports activities continue to apply. In addition to these orders, the province also strongly recommend everyone limit their travel between communities and outside of the province unless it is absolutely essential for work or medical care.

December 9, 2020 - The first limited round of approximately 4,000 vaccines will be administered to Lower Mainland health-care workers who work in long-term care homes and front-line health-care workers essential to the COVID-19 response. Vaccines will continue arriving each week in B.C. in increasing quantities, with targeted deployment for people in priority groups. Expected timelines will depend on vaccine approval and availability. A registration and record system is in development, including a process to register for vaccine access and receive a formal record of immunization.

December 7, 2020 – In the speech from the throne, a new Recovery Benefit was announced. Families with a combined household income of less than \$125,000 per year will be eligible to receive \$1,000; families earning above that, up to \$170,000, will receive payments on a sliding scale. Individuals earning less than \$62,000 a year will be eligible for \$500, with those earning up to \$87,000 eligible for a payment on a sliding scale. The BC Recovery Benefit will give people some financial help during a hard time, while benefiting the local economy. Government will also take significant steps to assist small- and medium-sized businesses in weathering the economic storm caused by COVID-19. New tax measures will reward businesses for hiring, and help them grow and become more productive by making it easier for them to invest in equipment and machinery.

November 19, 2020 – Today, the previously issued regional orders were expanded across the province. As was the case for the previous regional orders, the new provincewide orders focus on three areas: social gatherings, workplaces and group physical activities.

- **Social gatherings** - All indoor or outdoor events as defined in our Gathering and Events order are prohibited. This includes religious, cultural or community events, with the exception of baptisms, funerals and weddings. These may proceed with up to 10 people including an officiant if a COVID-19 safety plan is in place. There are to be no associated receptions of any kind in any venue. There are to be no social gatherings at residences with anyone other than those who reside there. People who live alone must host no gatherings but can continue to see one or two of the same members of their core pandemic bubble at home.
- **Group physical activities** - Businesses, recreation centres or other venues that organize or operate indoor group spin classes, hot yoga and high-intensity interval training will stop for the fall and winter. Guidance on other physical activities done with a group indoors will need to follow updated guidance that is being developed. Sports activities can continue, but there is to be no travel outside of communities for games or competitions, and no spectators are allowed. League organizers should continue planning for 2021 with today's modifications in mind.
- **Workplace safety** - All businesses and worksites must conduct active daily screening of all on-site workers using their COVID-19 safety plans. Workers and customers must wear masks in indoor public and retail spaces (except when eating or drinking), and in workplace common areas, including elevators, hallways, group or break rooms, kitchens and customer counters.

Office-based employers should temporarily suspend their efforts to safely get employees back to their workplace and support work-from-home options wherever possible.

- **Travel** - All non-essential travel outside of one's community is strongly discouraged. People travelling to stay with immediate family members should ensure they do not host or participate in any social gatherings.

November 7, 2020 - Today, new provincial health officer orders have been put in place for all individuals, places of work and businesses across the Fraser and Vancouver Coastal health regions, with the exception of the central coast and the Bella Coola Valley. The orders are in effect starting today, Saturday, Nov. 7 at 10 p.m. through to Monday, Nov. 23, 2020, at 12 p.m.

Right now, it is very important that everyone in these regions significantly reduces their social interactions. The orders focus on three areas: social gatherings, group physical activities and workplaces, and are outlined in the following link - <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/covid-19-provincial-support/lower-mainland>

In support of this new order, active inspections are being increased and businesses that do not comply will be subject to fines, and/or ordered to close, until a refreshed safety plan and commitment to comply are established.

They are strongly recommending travel into and out of these regions be limited to essential travel only and people within the regions stay within their local community, as much as possible.

November 6, 2020 - The BCCDC has implemented a texting service for new cases of COVID-19. People in B.C. can now sign up to receive text notification of both positive or negative test results, in addition to test results being available through Health Gateway and other online portals. For more information, go to: www.bccdc.ca/results

October 26, 2020 – A new provincial health officer order was put into place today limiting gatherings in private homes to no more than your immediate household, plus six others. This is a provincewide order that applies to all homes for all occasions. Enforcement will be stepped up to ensure people are following this new order, with the immediate focus on the Fraser Health region, where the increase in new cases is most notable.

In addition to this new order and in light of the increased risks with respiratory season, the expectation is that people will wear masks in all indoor public spaces. As part of this, businesses are asked to review their COVID-19 safety plans with this in mind. If you are in a high-traffic area or among many people outside of your household while at work, a mask will help to protect you and those around you.

September 28, 2020 - Public health contact tracing in BC has shown the primary source of COVID-19 transmission continues to be through socializing with others – whether in your home or less controlled settings. They are urging residents to take a step back from our social interactions, see fewer people and travel less right now.

September 17, 2020 – Premier John Horgan and Carole James, Minister of Finance, have released Stronger BC for Everyone: BC's Economic Recovery Plan. The plan outlines the latest steps the Government of British Columbia is taking to help people, businesses and communities recover and come

out of COVID-19 stronger and better prepared. B.C.'s total provincial response to the COVID-19 pandemic exceeds \$8.25 billion. The next steps in B.C.'s recovery plan will help build a stronger, more resilient economy for everyone.

- **Making health care better** by hiring 7,000 new front-line health-care workers.
- **Creating jobs and opportunities** by investing in targeted and short-term training in the skills people need to get work in high-demand fields, including for those who want to move into new, front-line health, child care and human-service positions
- **Helping businesses grow and rehire** with a 15% refundable tax credit based on eligible new payroll. It will also introduce a small- and medium-sized business recovery grant to support approximately 15,000 hard-hit businesses, while protecting as many as 200,000 jobs.
- **Supporting strong communities** by investing over \$400 million to revitalize community infrastructure and support local governments to provide the valuable services people depend on.

Today, a new made-in-B.C. sample collection program has been launched for all K-12 students across the province. One of the first of its kind worldwide. For school-aged children four to 19, a mouth-rinse gargle is now available at COVID-19 collection centres around the province. Unlike the nasopharyngeal swab method, this new saline method doesn't require a health-care professional to collect the sample. Not only is the new method more comfortable for younger people, a B.C. company will provide the collection tube, reducing the province's dependency on the global supply chain for this sample method.

September 9, 2020 - The Province is investing \$1.6 billion in a fall and winter preparedness plan that will significantly build upon and strengthen measures that respond to the health-care requirements of COVID-19. The plan will provide new support to seniors in long-term care homes and assisted-living facilities, by ensuring more British Columbians than ever before can get a flu shot, and by reducing the chance for transmission of COVID-19 in B.C. hospitals.

The Government is dedicating \$44.1 million to launch the Health Career Access Program and recruit an estimated 7,000 health-care workers in long-term care homes and assisted-living facilities throughout the province. The program will provide a path for approximately 3,000 applicants who may not previously have had health-care experience to receive on-the-job training. New hires in the program will start in a health-care support worker position and receive paid training that leads to full qualification as a health-care assistant.

To further protect vulnerable British Columbians, the Province is providing \$374 million to bolster public health measures, including significantly building out the fall flu immunization campaign. As part of this, 45,000 Fluzone-High Dose immunizations will be made available to all long-term care and assisted living residents. Fluzone-High Dose is a higher dose vaccine designed specifically to protect people over 65 from influenza. An additional 450,000 influenza vaccine doses will be made available in the 2020-21 influenza season, for a total of approximately two million doses.

The Government is also dedicating \$42.3 million to ease the pressures off B.C. hospitals and reduce the chance of COVID-19 transmission in the hospitals. Hospital at Home, an innovative program that has succeeded in Canada and around the world, allows patients who meet the criteria to be offered 24/7 care at home rather than being admitted to hospital. Through in-person and virtual visits, patients will receive safe, effective care from nurses and physicians experienced in hospital medicine and acute care. Hospital at Home will launch through the Victoria General Hospital, then through additional hospitals over the coming months.

September 8, 2020 - The provincial health officer's order on bars, nightclubs and banquet halls has been amended. Effective today, all nightclubs and stand-alone banquet halls are ordered closed until further notice. Liquor sales in all bars, pubs and restaurants must cease at 10 p.m. and they must close at 11 p.m., unless providing a full meal service, in which case they may stay open, but may not serve liquor until 11 a.m. the following day. Music or other background sounds, such as from televisions in bars, lounges, pubs and restaurants, must be no louder than the volume of normal conversation.

September 2, 2020 - The Province is boosting funds immediately for school-based wellness programs and supports by \$2 million, topping up the \$8.8-million investment over three years that was announced last September. This means that for the 2020-21 school year, school districts and independent school authorities will receive a total of \$3.75 million to promote mental wellness and provide additional supports for students, families and educators as they work together to get through this challenging time. As families, teachers and staff prepare for a school year that looks very different, help is available if worries begin to feel unmanageable. Free and low-cost counselling services are available online, by video and phone through programs such as BounceBack, Living Life to the Full, Here2Talk, Foundry's virtual services and more, for anyone who needs someone to talk to.

August 26, 2020 - Back to school plans for K-12 families are now posted for all 60 school districts, so parents and families can prepare to support their children for a safe return to the classroom. Families should visit their school district website to view their local school's plans. The Ministry of Education has also given school districts the flexibility and certainty to find options that work for families. This includes the authority for all school boards to offer remote options to students within their districts, as well as the tools they need to increase their existing programs to meet demand. Parents will find detailed back to school plans on their district website. In addition to health and safety measures, the plans include:

- how learning groups will be organized;
- when masks are required;
- daily schedules for classes, lunch and recess;
- daily health assessment requirements;
- pick-up and drop off times;
- protocols for common areas;
- hand washing directions; and
- orientation information.

Every day, school districts are prepared to welcome all students to elementary and middle schools. For secondary schools, timetables have been modified to adhere to the health and safety requirements and ensure that all students can attend most days, with much of their instruction occurring in-class. The majority of school districts (68%) are moving to a quarterly semester system in some or all of their secondary schools.

August 24, 2020 - Athletes throughout British Columbia will be able to engage in more organized sport activities and some competitive play as the Province moves to Phase 3 of the Return to Sport Guidelines. The guidelines contain recommendations for how different types of sports now can progressively add activities back again while continuing to adhere to current public health recommendations. This new guidance addresses contact activities, cohorts, competitions, high-performance training environments and travel.

August 21, 2020 - Police and other provincial enforcement officers have been given the ability to issue \$2,000 violation tickets for owners or organizers contravening the provincial health officer's (PHO) order on gatherings and events. They will also be able to issue \$200 violation tickets to individuals not following the direction of police or enforcement staff at events or who refuse to comply with requests to follow PHO orders or safe operating procedures, or respond with abusive behaviour.

The enforcement focus will be on \$2,000 fines to owners, operators and organizers for contraventions of the provincial health officer's order on gatherings and events. This includes hosting a private party or public event in excess of 50 people, failing to provide appropriate hand sanitation and washroom facilities, failing to provide sufficient space in the venue for physical distancing, failing to obtain a list of names and contacts at large event or having more than five guests gathered in a vacation accommodation.

August 17, 2020 - School districts have received updated operational guidelines to help ensure a consistent provincewide approach to keep schools safe for all students, teachers and staff during the COVID-19 pandemic. Under the updated health and safety guidelines, masks will be required for staff, middle and secondary students in high traffic areas such as buses and in common areas such as hallways, or anytime outside of their learning group whenever physical distancing cannot be maintained. Other health and safety guidelines include:

- increased cleaning of high-contact surfaces like doorknobs, keyboards, desks and chairs;
- increased hand hygiene with all students, staff and visitors being required to clean their hands before boarding school buses and entering school buildings, before and after eating, using the washroom and using playground equipment; and
- school districts may also install transparent barriers for people who have more contact with others, such as front-desk staff, bus drivers or food services staff, where appropriate.

More information on learning groups, including examples can be found

online: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/covid-19-return-to-school>

April 7, 2020 - There continue to be community exposure events throughout the province and on flights into and out of British Columbia. Alerts are posted on the BC Centre for Disease Control's website, as well as on health authorities' websites, providing details on where the potential exposure occurred and what actions you need to take – whether you need to immediately self-isolate, or monitor for symptoms.

June 24, 2020 – British Columbia has entered “Stage 3” of its Re-Start Plan, which is a staged approach to increasing travel throughout the Province, and otherwise re-opening businesses and services in British Columbia in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Province also announced it is extending the state of emergency another two weeks, until July 7th. The following changes will be implemented as a result of B.C. entering Stage 3, which will affect some businesses operating in the Province. Those affected will be permitted to operate subject to their ability to comply with existing social distancing protocols and guidance:

Travel within BC

The Premier is now encouraging travel within the Province, and requests visitors respect the communities they visit and continue to observe social distancing measures. British Columbia is now welcoming visitors from elsewhere in Canada, particularly the bordering provinces of Alberta and Yukon, so long as social distancing measures are observed. While inter-provincial travel was never formally restricted in BC, previously the Premier had requested it be limited to only essential purposes.

Hotels, motels, RV parks, cabins, resorts, hostels, lodges, and backcountry operators

Although the accommodation industry was never formally ordered to be closed in B.C., many operators closed voluntarily given the lack of travel within the Province, and the recommendations of the Provincial Health Officer. The accommodation industry is expected to operate consistent with the protocols set by WorkSafeBC as Stage 3 commences. BC Parks overnight campgrounds are also now open and accepting reservations.

Motion picture and television production

It is expected that motion picture and television production in B.C. will resume during Stage 3. Employers in this industry must ensure they are compliant with WorkSafeBC protocols, and all relevant orders and guidance from the Provincial Health Officer.

K-12 School (In person)

K-12 schools have gradually re-opened in B.C., on a voluntary and part-time basis. As part of Stage 3, it is anticipated that a return to full-time in class learning will resume in September 2020, if it is safe to do so.

June 19, 2020 - In early April, the Province introduced COVID-19 border screening measures, unprecedented in Canada, to help ensure British Columbians returning home from international destinations had the support they need to manage self-isolation plans and keep B.C. communities safe. Following the current transition period with the federal government, B.C. will end provincially led border check points on Saturday, June 20, 2020. Federal screening measures currently in place will continue. Service BC will also continue compliance and wellness checks to ensure travellers can effectively maintain their 14-day self-isolation.

June 2, 2020 - The Government of British Columbia reopened in-class instruction to all students on Monday, June 1, 2020, with about 30% of expected enrolment in attendance. As part of Stage 3 of B.C.'s return to schools, all families have been given the option to have their children back in classrooms for the remainder of the 2019-20 school year. Families who choose not to send their children to school are still being supported by teachers remotely. Schools are designating specific time for teachers to focus on remote education.

June 1, 2020 - B.C. businesses eligible for rent support from the federal government will be protected from evictions as the B.C. government issues a new order under the Emergency Program Act (EPA). Eligible businesses whose landlords choose not to apply for the federal CECRA program will be protected from evictions due to unpaid rent payments through to the end of June 2020, as determined by the federal program timelines. The EPA order restricts the termination of lease agreements and the repossession of goods and property.

May 22, 2020 - While Phase 2 is now underway, the provincial health officer order restricting mass gatherings to no more than 50 individuals remains in place. Further, the order has been amended to also include no more than 50 vehicles for outdoor drive-in events, with a restriction on the sale of refreshments. Anyone attending these events must stay in their cars unless they have to go to washrooms, which must be serviced with running water for proper hand hygiene.

Government has taken action to support the province's hospitality sector by temporarily authorizing the expansion of service areas, such as patios, to support physical distancing requirements and industry recovery during the COVID-19 pandemic.

May 15, 2020 - As British Columbia prepares to enter Phase 2 of its economic restart plan, the Province welcomes the release of the initial set of WorkSafeBC guidelines that will help businesses and organizations develop their plans to reopen safely in the coming days and weeks. Industry-specific guidance and resources are available online: <https://www.worksafebc.com/en/about-us/covid-19-updates/covid-19-returning-safe-operation>

Parents will have the choice of bringing their children back to class on a part-time basis this school year as part of BC's Restart Plan, with the goal of returning to full-time classes in September 2020, provided it is safe to do so.

May 13, 2020 – BC is extending the provincial state of emergency until May 26, 2020 to support continued co-ordination of the pandemic response.

May 6, 2020 - BC will move forward with safely restarting their province beginning in mid-May, according to a plan announced by Premier John Horgan. Restarting economic activity will look different in B.C. than in other jurisdictions, because only a small number of sectors in the province were closed by public health order. Many other provinces are just now reaching the level of safe operations B.C. has been able to maintain throughout the pandemic. B.C. is currently in Phase 1 of the restart plan. Phase 2, which will begin in mid-May, includes:

- small social gatherings;
- a resumption of elective surgeries and regulated health services like physiotherapy, dentistry, chiropractors and in-person counselling;
- provincial parks open for day use;
- opening more non-essential businesses in keeping with safe operations plans;
- recalling the provincial legislature for regular sittings.

Essential businesses that have remained open during the pandemic have done so safely with the support of WorkSafeBC. Government will build on this successful experience by supporting all businesses as they take steps toward a successful reopening.

The target date for the start of Phase 3, which will include opening up of additional businesses and services, is between June and September 2020, if transmission rates remain low or in decline. Phase 4 will only be achieved when the threat of COVID-19 has been significantly diminished through widespread vaccination, broad successful treatments, evidence of community immunity, or the equivalent.

May 4, 2020 - To ease financial hardship on businesses and to keep employees connected with their jobs during the COVID-19 pandemic, government has extended the temporary layoff period to 16 weeks for COVID-19 related reasons. This change to the Employment Standards Act aligns B.C.'s temporary layoff provisions with the federal Canada Emergency Response Benefit period. The federal period provides 16 weeks of financial support, allowing employees to take full advantage of those benefits. It also allows employees to keep their job, even if they are not working, for 16 weeks of temporary layoff. Employers will be able to quickly resume operations should the public health emergency end within that time.

May 1, 2020 - British Columbians whose ability to work has been affected because of the COVID-19 pandemic and are receiving the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) can now apply for the B.C. Emergency Benefit for Workers (BCEBW) online. The BCEBW is a one-time, tax-free payment of \$1,000 for eligible British Columbians. To be eligible for the BCEBW, people must:

- have been a resident of B.C. on March 15, 2020;
- meet the eligibility requirements for the CERB;
- have been approved for the CERB, even if a federal benefit payment has not yet been received;
- be at least 15 years old on the date of application;
- have filed, or agree to file, a 2019 B.C. income tax return; and
- not be receiving provincial income assistance or disability assistance.

Applying online is the fastest, easiest way to receive the benefit. To apply, British Columbians with their social insurance number and direct deposit information can go to: www.gov.bc.ca/workerbenefit On Monday, May 4, 2020, agents will be available by phone to assist people who need help applying, including those who do not have internet access.

April 29, 2020 – the provincial state of emergency is being extended for the third time, to support the extraordinary measures taken by the Province under the Emergency Program Act to keep people safe during the COVID-19 pandemic. Each extension is for an additional 14 days. The extension of the provincial state of emergency is based on recommendations from B.C.'s health and emergency management officials.

April 24, 2020 - British Columbia has partnered with the federal government on the CECRA, a welcome next step that will help thousands of commercial property owners and tenants in British Columbia. Launching in mid-May 2020, the CECRA will see B.C. small businesses receive a total of over \$300 million in federal-provincial relief, with B.C. contributing an estimated \$80 million. The 75% reduction in monthly rent for small businesses affected by COVID-19 will be achieved by providing forgivable loans to cover 50% of the rent payments for eligible small business tenants for April, May and June. The loans will be forgiven if the landlord reduces the tenant's monthly rent by at least 75%. The commercial tenant would be responsible for covering 25%, the property owner 25%, while the federal and provincial governments share the remaining 50%.

April 19, 2020 - Mike Farnworth, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General, has given police and other enforcement officers the ability to issue \$2,000 violation tickets for price gouging and the reselling of medical supplies and other essential goods during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. If required, police and other enforcement officers will also be able to actively enforce and ticket those who:

- exceed the quantity limits on the sale of specified items; and
- do not comply with the requirement for hotel and other lodging operators to provide accommodation at the request of the Province to serve as self-isolation facilities or to support essential workers.

April 16, 2020 - The Province is providing enhanced relief for businesses by reducing most commercial property tax bills by an average of 25%, along with new measures to support local governments facing temporary revenue shortfalls as a result of COVID-19.

A new B.C. Business COVID-19 Support Service will serve as a single point of contact for businesses throughout the province looking for information on resources available during the COVID-19 pandemic: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020JEDC0008-000700>

April 8, 2020 – Effective immediately, international travellers (including from the United States) coming to the province are required to provide a self-isolation plan before or upon arrival to B.C., regardless of their point of entry to Canada. This document, which can be submitted online or completed in person on arrival, must show that returning travellers have supports in place to safely self-isolate for 14 days. Beginning Friday, April 10, 2020, provincial officials will be on hand at the Vancouver International Airport and major land border crossings to make sure self-isolation plans are complete and to assist those who need it. Upon border arrival, self-isolation plans will be reviewed by officials, and travellers will be supported as follows:

- If a self-isolation plan is submitted and approved, travellers will receive a confirmation. This confirmation can be shown on arrival. Travellers with approved plans will proceed to their home residence (or another identified accommodation) to self-isolate.
- If an airline traveller arrives and an adequate self-isolation plan is proposed but needs additional support to execute safely (e.g., enlist volunteers to deliver groceries or fill prescriptions once at home), travellers may be taken or directed to an accommodation site provided in collaboration with the provincial and federal governments to begin self-isolation, while outstanding details of their plan are put in place. With an approved self-isolation plan, they may return home. Without an approved plan, they will remain at an accommodation site for 14 days.
- If a traveller arrives at a major land border crossing and needs additional supports to execute a self-isolation plan, they will be sent directly home to start self-isolating and will be followed up with by officials for additional support.
- If a traveller does not have a self-isolation plan or is unable to safely carry one out as determined by officials, they may be transported or sent to an accommodation provided by government where they can safely complete their 14-day self-isolation.

Emergency Management BC, through a network of community supports and volunteer organizations, will help travellers with necessary food deliveries, prescription drugs and other supplies so people can safely self-isolate for 14 days.

The Province, through Service BC, will follow up with travellers in self-isolation with telephone calls and text messages to make sure people have the support they need to complete their mandatory self-isolation. If required, the Province will work with travellers to modify self-isolation plans to ensure public safety.

BC Parks is immediately closing all provincial parks in response to the widespread call for increased action to address COVID-19. The closure responds to both the federal and provincial directives that people should stay close to home to reduce COVID-19 transmission risk. This temporary measure means people should not be going to provincial parks until further notice.

The Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) is establishing an Emergency Relief Support Fund for children and youth with special needs and their families. The fund will provide a direct payment of \$225 per month to eligible families over the next three months (to June 30, 2020).

Using a needs-based approach, the emergency funding will support 50% more of the eligible families that are currently awaiting services. This payment can be used to purchase supports that help alleviate stress. These could include:

- meal preparation and grocery shopping assistance;
- homemaking services
- caregiver relief support (e.g., funded support to allow a family member to provide temporary care for a child or youth);
- counselling services, online or by phone; and

- and other services that support family functioning.

April 2, 2020 - Government is taking steps to protect those providing essential services by ensuring they cannot be held liable for damages caused by exposure to COVID-19 while continuing to operate, so long as they are complying with orders from the provincial health officer and other authorities. The order is being introduced because a number of essential service business owners identified challenges with their insurance as a result of the pandemic. The changes government is implementing are intended to assist with some of these concerns. <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020AG0029-000616>

April 1, 2020 - BC Hydro will offer new, targeted bill relief to provide immediate help to those most in need. Residential customers who have lost their jobs or are unable to work as a result of COVID-19 will receive a credit to help cover the cost of their electricity bills. The credit will be three times their average monthly bill over the past year at their home and does not have to be repaid.

Small businesses that have been forced to close due to COVID-19 will have their power bills forgiven for three months. BC Hydro is waiving bills for these customers from April to June 2020.

Major industries, like pulp and paper mills and mines, will have the opportunity to defer 50% of their bill payments for three months.

March 27, 2020 - Adrian Dix, Minister of Health, and Dr. Bonnie Henry, B.C.'s provincial health officer, strongly discourage any in-person gathering of any size at this time, but rather encourage using the many online options we have available today to stay connected to friends, family, customers and clients.

New guidelines for school leaders and a new website are being introduced to support B.C.'s K-12 students while in-class education is suspended to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Every student in K-12 will receive a final mark for the 2019-20 school year, and all students who are on track to move to the next grade will do so in the fall. Every student eligible to graduate from Grade 12 this school year will also graduate. On average, about 45,000 students graduate every year. The Ministry of Education is also working across government to ensure all students graduating high school will have a smooth transition to post-secondary education.

March 26, 2020 – BC announced its list of essential services. Currently, any business or service that has not been ordered to close by provincial order, and is not on this list, may stay open if it can adapt its services and workplace to the orders and recommendations of Provincial Health Officer, Dr. Bonnie Henry. The list of essential services can be found here: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020PSSG0020-000568>

March 24, 2020 – BC announced its COVID-19 Action Plan to include:

- A one-time, tax-free B.C. Emergency Benefit of \$1,000 will be available for workers whose ability work has been affected by the COVID-19 outbreak. This payment will be available to individuals who are eligible for federal Employment Insurance as a result of the impact of COVID-19, including the new federal Emergency Care Benefit and the Emergency Support Benefit. This means workers that are typically not EI-eligible, such as self-employed workers, will be able to access the B.C. Emergency Benefit, which is expected to become available by May 2020.

- The Province will also provide a “top-up” to the B.C. Climate Action Tax Credit in July 2020. This payment will go to 86% of individuals and families, in amounts of up to \$218 for adults and \$64 per child.
- \$2.2 billion dedicated to providing relief to businesses in BC and help them recover following the COVID-19 pandemic. Details as to the exact allocation of that money are presently not clear.
- Targeted tax relief will be offered as well, including deferrals of tax filing and payment deadlines.

Further details are available here: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020PREM0013-000545>

March 23, 2020 - BC government introduced amendments to the *Employment Standards Act*, creating two new unpaid statutory leaves:

COVID-19-related Leave - Employees meeting the following criteria are entitled to an unpaid leave of absence:

- Employees diagnosed with COVID-19 and acting in accordance with advice from a medical health officer, or a medical practitioner, nurse practitioner or registered nurse;
- Employees in quarantine or self-isolation in accordance with an order of the provincial health officer, an order made under the *Quarantine Act*, or the guidelines imposed by the British Columbia Centre for Disease Control, or the guidelines of the Public Health Agency of Canada;
- Where an employer has directed an employee not to work due to concerns of exposure to others;
- Employees providing care to their child, or other persons (over the age of 19) unable to obtain the necessities of life for whom the employee is a parent or former guardian; or
- Employees outside of the province and unable to return due to travel or border restrictions.

The length of the COVID-19 protected leave will be for so long as the circumstance which causes the need for the leave exists. Employers are also prohibited from requiring medical notes associated with these circumstances, although other forms of proof may be requested. The new leave period does not prevent employers from laying off employees for business-related reasons, including loss of business related to COVID-19 or business closures/shutdowns.

Illness or Injury Leave - Employees are entitled to three days of unpaid statutory leave where they are suffering from personal illness or injury. If requested by an employer, the employee must provide reasonably sufficient proof of their personal illness or injury. This amendment and new leave is not specifically related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

March 18, 2020 - BC Declares Public Health Emergency. This declaration provides Dr. Bonnie Henry, the B.C. Provincial Health Officer, with the power to issue verbal orders which have immediate effect and can be enforced by the police. Dr. Henry can also amend the *Public Health Act* without the legislature's consent. All bars and clubs have now been ordered to close, and restaurants and cafes that cannot maintain appropriate social distancing measures must either close or immediately move to takeout or delivery services.

Nova Scotia:

February 23, 2022 – Nova Scotia is moving up the timeline for easing public health restrictions and will end all restrictions on March 21. On Monday, February 28, Phase 1 of the Province's reopening plan will be adjusted to end the current requirement to show proof of full vaccination before participating in non-essential, discretionary events and activities. Other restrictions continue.

On Monday, March 7, at 12:01 a.m., Phase 2 will begin with the following restrictions in effect:

Gathering Limits:

- the informal gathering limit will be 25 people from the same household or close social group indoors and 50 outdoors
- the formal gathering limit will be 75 per cent capacity, with physical distancing as much as possible, for gatherings hosted by a recognized business or organization such as special events, sports, receptions, performances, movie theatres, meetings, training, weddings, funerals and faith gatherings
- large venues can operate at 75 per cent capacity, up to 5,000 people, with physical distancing as much as possible.

Businesses:

- licensed establishments, restaurants and casinos can return to regular hours and operate at 75 per cent capacity, with physical distancing as much as possible
- VLTs can continue operating with two metres of physical distance between people at machines
- fitness and recreation facilities and recreation and leisure businesses can operate at 75 per cent capacity, with physical distancing as much as possible
- personal services businesses (like hair salons, barber shops, spas, nail salons and body art establishments) can operate at full capacity, with physical distancing as much as possible; services that require removing masks can be offered
- retail stores and malls can operate at full capacity (shoppers and staff) with physical distancing

During Phase 2, people who test positive for COVID-19 will still be required to self-isolate but they will no longer be required to notify close contacts outside their own household.

Phase 3 – the removal of all provincial COVID-19 restrictions, including at schools – will begin March 21.

February 9, 2022 – Provincewide COVID-19 restrictions will be eased over three phases, starting Monday, February 14. In Phase 1, events will be allowed again, gathering limits will increase and all border restrictions for domestic travellers will be lifted. In Phase 2, gathering limits will be further increased. In Phase 3, there will be no more gathering limits or physical distance requirements. Throughout the first two phases, masks will continue to be required in indoor public places and proof of full vaccination will continue to be required for discretionary activities. These restrictions may also continue in Phase 3, depending on epidemiology.

Phase 1 will start at 12:01 a.m. Monday. Some of the key changes in this phase are:

Border Restrictions

- all border restrictions for domestic travellers entering Nova Scotia will be lifted; there will be no isolation requirements or Nova Scotia Safe Check-in form
- international travelers will continue to follow federal rules.

Gathering Limits

- the informal gathering limit indoors and outdoors will be 25 people from the same household or close social group; physical distance and proof of full vaccination are not required; masks are not required except in indoor public places
- the formal gathering limit for gatherings and events hosted by a recognized business or organization will be 50 per cent of capacity indoors and outdoors
- examples of formal gatherings include festivals, special events, social gatherings, regular faith services, wedding ceremonies, funeral ceremonies and associated visitation, receptions, meetings, training, and spectators at sports events, performances and movie theatres.

Businesses

- retail businesses and malls can operate at the maximum capacity possible with physical distance and masks
- personal services like hair salons can resume offering services that require removing masks; they can already operate at the maximum capacity possible with physical distance
- food establishments and liquor-licensed establishments can operate at 75 per cent capacity; they must have physical distance between tables and there is a limit of 25 people per table; they must stop dine-in service by midnight and close by 1 a.m.; takeout, drive-thru and delivery can operate later; performers follow the limits for arts and culture participants.

Education

- enhanced public measures, such as classroom cohorts and not allowing non-essential visitors, will remain in effect in all schools
- singing and use of wind instruments can resume
- schools will follow the community guidelines on sports, arts and culture, but spectators will only be permitted after school hours.

January 4, 2022 – Nova Scotia will extend current COVID-19 restrictions until the end of January and make changes to self-isolation requirements. The changes below take effect for most Nova Scotians on Friday, January 7, at 6 a.m.

New Self-Isolation Requirements for Positive Case - The new requirements are determined by a person's age, household situation and vaccination status:

Fully vaccinated person or a child 11 years old or younger

- must isolate for a minimum of seven days following the onset of symptoms or a positive test if asymptomatic
- can leave isolation after Day 7 if there are no symptoms or symptoms are improving and there has been no fever for at least 24 hours

Unvaccinated or partially vaccinated person or a person who is immunocompromised

- must isolate for a minimum of 10 days
- can leave isolation after Day 10 if they no longer have symptoms or symptoms are improving and there has been no fever for at least 24 hours.
- Isolation requirements apply regardless of the type of test taken (rapid test or lab-based PCR test).

Changes to Isolation Requirements for Close Contacts

If a fully vaccinated person or child who is 11 or younger is identified as a close contact of a positive case:

- they should get tested 72 hours after exposure and watch for symptoms
- if they take a PCR test, no further testing is needed unless they develop symptoms

- if they take a rapid test, they should do a second rapid test 48 hours after the first.

Until they get their first negative test result, they should:

- stay at home except to go to school, work or child care
- work from home as much as possible
- practice physical distancing when at work or school, including while eating or drinking
- wear a properly fitted, three-layer mask
- only do essential activities such as getting groceries or prescriptions if there is nobody else who can do it for them.

For all others, including immunocompromised people who haven't had a booster:

- they must immediately isolate for seven days
- they can leave isolation after two negative rapid tests done on Day 6 and Day 8 or after one negative PCR test done on Day 6 or 7
- if symptoms develop, they must remain isolated and get tested.

Isolating in Household - If someone with COVID-19 can isolate completely separately from the rest of their household, then other members of the household follow the direction for close contacts. However, if the person cannot isolate completely separately, then other members of the household must isolate along with them for the duration of their isolation – regardless of their vaccination status – and should be tested on Day 3 or 4 and again on the last day of isolation. They can leave isolation if the last test is negative.

December 21, 2021 – The Province is strengthening restrictions around masking, gatherings and physical distancing to protect the healthcare system and other critical workforces from the threat of the Omicron variant of COVID-19. Effective Wednesday, December 22 through to least January 12 and will be re-evaluated then.

Physical distance and mask requirements:

- physical distance of two metres (six feet) is required indoors and outdoors, except among people in the same household or a consistent social group of up to 10 people
- masks are required in areas of workplaces where physical distance cannot be achieved, as well as common areas, areas where people are serving the public and areas with poor ventilation
- people must be seated to remove their mask for eating or drinking; at movie theatres, they must go to a designated area for eating and drinking
- all other mask requirements for indoor public places remain, including wearing them when seated for other activities
- individuals, businesses and organizations all have responsibility for ensuring mask requirements are followed and can all be subject to enforcement action.

Gathering limits:

- indoor and outdoor informal gatherings, typically at home, are limited to 10 people from the same household or consistent social group; physical distance and proof of full vaccination are not required; masks are not required except in indoor public places
- only virtual events are allowed – there are no in-person events such as festivals, social events, special events (including receptions), sports games or tournaments, or arts and culture performances
- a limit of 10 participants indoors and 25 outdoors applies to sports practices and training; physical distance is not required, and masks are recommended when possible indoors and outdoors; spectators are not allowed

- gathering limits of 25 per cent of capacity to a maximum of 50 people indoors and outdoors apply to regular faith services, wedding ceremonies, funeral ceremonies and their associated visitation, movie theatres, meetings and training that are hosted by a recognized business or organization, including faith organizations
- day camps can operate with groups of 15 campers, staff and volunteers following day camp guidelines.

Businesses:

- places like retail businesses, malls, museums, libraries and recreation and leisure businesses and organizations can operate at 50 per cent capacity with physical distance; some examples under recreation and leisure include dance and music lessons, climbing facilities, escape rooms, indoor play places, arcades, golf, shooting ranges and dog training
- fitness and recreation facilities can operate at 50 per cent capacity with physical distance; personal training is allowed with as much physical distance as possible
- personal services like hair salons can operate at the maximum capacity possible with physical distancing but cannot offer services that require removing masks
- food establishments and liquor-licensed establishments can operate at 50 per cent capacity, they must have physical distance between tables; barriers may only be used to achieve 50 per cent capacity but not exceed it; there is a limit of 10 people per table; they must stop dine-in service at 11 p.m. and close by midnight; takeout, drive-thru and delivery can operate later; only one performer is allowed
- Casino Nova Scotia and First Nations gaming centres can operate at 50 per cent capacity; people playing VLTs must be at least two metres (6 feet) apart; these gaming establishments must stop dine-in service at 11 p.m. and close by midnight
- activities like cards, darts, pool, bowling and karaoke follow the rules for the setting where they take place, either in licensed establishments or recreation and leisure businesses
- bingo follows the rules for licensed establishments when in that setting; bingo in non-licensed establishments is a special event which is not allowed.

Nova Scotians who have been impacted by the fourth wave of the COVID-19 pandemic may qualify for up to four paid sick days with the relaunch of Nova Scotia's COVID-19 Paid Sick Leave Program.

December 13, 2021 – physical distance and gathering limits are returning to help protect Nova Scotians and the health system over the next few weeks. Mask requirements are also being tightened and there are enhanced measures at schools. Starting Friday, December 17, and lasting until at least the new year, the following restrictions will be in place:

Physical distance and mask requirements

- physical distance of two metres (six feet) is required indoors and outdoors, except among people in the same household or a consistent social group of up to 20 people
- places like fitness and recreation facilities, retail businesses, malls, museums, libraries and personal services like hair salons can operate at the maximum capacity possible with physical distancing
- food establishments and liquor-licensed establishments must have physical distance between tables and a limit of 20 people per table
- people must be seated to remove their mask for eating or drinking; all other mask requirements for indoor public places remain, including wearing them when seated for other activities

- masks are required in areas of workplaces where physical distance cannot be achieved, as well as common areas, areas where people are serving the public and areas with poor ventilation
- individuals, businesses and organizations all have responsibility for ensuring mask requirements are followed and can all be subject to enforcement action

Gathering limits

- indoor and outdoor informal gatherings, typically at home, are limited to 20 people from the same household or consistent social group; physical distance and proof of full vaccination are not required; masks are not required except in indoor public places
- gathering limits of 50 per cent of capacity to a maximum of 150 people indoors and 250 outdoors apply to social gatherings, regular faith services, weddings, funerals and their associated receptions and visitation, special events, meetings, training, festivals, and audiences for sports events and arts and culture events (like performances and movie theatres) that are hosted by a recognized business or organization, including faith organizations
- a limit of 60 participants indoors and outdoors applies to sports practices, games, and regular league play; tournaments are not allowed; physical distance is not required, and masks are recommended when possible indoors and outdoors
- a limit of 60 participants indoors and outdoors applies to professional and amateur arts and culture rehearsals and performances; competitions are not allowed; professionals must have a plan for their workplace; physical distance is not required, and masks are recommended when possible indoors and outdoors
- children age 11 and younger continue to be restricted from entering Nova Scotia to participate in sports and arts and culture events and from participating in them outside Nova Scotia
- specific organizational plans will be considered for large venues such as Scotiabank Centre, Halifax Exhibition Centre and Halifax Convention Centre
- spectators at sports games or arts and culture performances cannot eat or drink in the main seating area of the recreation facility or event venue; people must go to a designated area for eating and drinking.

There is no change in the requirement for proof of full vaccination for discretionary activities. It is still required for attendees and volunteers, even in places where gathering limits and physical distance will apply.

December 10, 2021 - the Province has expanded eligibility to include:

- anyone 60 years of age and older
- all frontline healthcare workers, including community healthcare providers who provide direct patient care, regardless of the interval between their first two doses
- all designated caregivers regardless of the interval between their first two doses.

November 26, 2021 – Parents and guardians of children aged five to 11 can now book their child's COVID-19 vaccine appointment.

November 18, 2021 – Individuals and organizations hosting events or gatherings that ignore public health orders are now subject to penalties under the Health Protection Act. This is a new category of offence that will hold organizers directly responsible for contravening the act and putting themselves and others in danger.

Fines will start at the highest maximum penalty under the act of \$2,422 for a first offence and increase to \$11,622 for individuals who either organize or attend an illegal gathering. Organizations will be fined

the highest maximum penalty under the act of \$11,622 for a first offence and \$57,622 for the second and each subsequent offence. Individuals can also face jail time. The fines include victim surcharge and other court fees. The new fines are effective immediately.

November 17, 2021 – Nova Scotians who are eligible for a COVID-19 booster dose of mRNA vaccine can schedule an appointment starting November 23. The groups eligible for a COVID-19 booster dose in Nova Scotia six months after their primary series are:

- anyone 70 and older
- people who received two doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine
- frontline healthcare workers who were double vaccinated with an interval of less than 28 days between their first and second dose

November 5, 2021 – Nova Scotia will begin to administer COVID-19 booster doses to more eligible groups by the end of November. NACI recommended that booster doses be offered at least six months after the primary series is completed. Groups who will be eligible for a booster dose in Nova Scotia include:

- anyone 80 and older, followed by anyone ages 70 to 79
- adult frontline healthcare workers who were double vaccinated with an interval of less than 28 days between their first and second doses
- people who received two doses of the AstraZeneca Vaxzevria/COVISHIELD vaccine or one dose of Janssen vaccine

The Province is also engaging with Indigenous and African Nova Scotian communities on the best way to offer booster doses in those communities. Planning for the booster doses is underway, and updates to the vaccine booking system are being made. More information will be announced once booking for booster doses opens.

October 27, 2021 – Starting November 1, all domestic travellers to Nova Scotia who are age 12 and older will have self-isolation requirements based on their own vaccination status. People who were fully vaccinated at least 14 days before arriving do not have to isolate, but testing is recommended. People who are not fully vaccinated must isolate for at least seven days and get two negative test results in Nova Scotia to stop isolating after seven days. They must be lab-based tests, not rapid tests.

October 14, 2021 – Nova Scotians who are moderately to severely immunocompromised or who are taking medications that substantially suppress their immune system will be able to book a third dose of COVID-19 vaccine starting October 19. The province will also make third doses available to people who need to travel for work to meet entry requirements or avoid isolation in a country that does not recognize mixed doses. For example, first dose AstraZeneca and second dose Pfizer.

October 4, 2021 – Nova Scotians can now add COVID-19 vaccines that they received outside the province or through a workplace vaccination program to their Nova Scotia proof of vaccination. The opportunity is available to:

- permanent residents of Nova Scotia who received one or both doses in another province, territory or country
- permanent residents who received one or both doses in a workplace vaccination program, such as members of the Canadian Armed Forces
- anyone who received at least one dose of vaccine in Nova Scotia

September 29, 2021 – Phase 5 of Nova Scotia’s reopening plan is starting October 4 with a cautious approach. While most restrictions will be lifted, some will be maintained, and border restrictions will be added for people coming from Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland and Labrador. Some notable aspects of Phase 5 include:

- masks will continue to be mandatory in indoor public places
- physical distancing and gathering limits for events hosted by a recognized business or organization will be lifted
- the informal gathering limits of 25 people indoors and 50 outdoors will remain in place
- proof of full vaccination will be required for non-essential events and activities

Effective at 8 a.m. on October 4, everyone coming to Nova Scotia from other Canadian provinces and territories will need to complete the Nova Scotia Safe Check-in form. Their isolation will be based on vaccination status and testing. People who were fully vaccinated at least 14 days before arriving do not have to isolate, but testing is recommended. People who are not fully vaccinated must isolate for at least seven days and get two negative test results in Nova Scotia to stop isolating after seven days. They must be lab-based tests, not rapid tests.

September 14, 2021 – Due to current epidemiology in the province and Atlantic region, Nova Scotia will delay starting Phase 5 of its reopening plan until Oct. 4, when the proof of full vaccination policy begins for certain events and activities. Phase 5 was expected to start Wednesday, Sept. 15.

September 8, 2021 – Nova Scotia will move into Phase 5 of its reopening plan on Sept. 15. Wearing masks in indoor public places will no longer be mandatory but remain strongly recommended when people gather in indoor places, and other public health measures like gathering limits and physical distancing will also be lifted. Businesses and other organizations are also free to set their own mask policies.

As of Oct. 4, proof of full vaccination will be required for Nova Scotians who are 12 or older to participate in discretionary, recreational or non-essential activities such as dining out, going to a fitness facility, or going to a movie, theatre performance, concert or sporting event. The proof of vaccination requirement does not apply to children 11 years of age and under because they are not eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccine.

Border measures will remain in place. The province will also start requiring proof of full vaccination for non-essential, discretionary, recreation and leisure services and activities on Oct. 4. The province is also making some changes to border and self-isolation requirements effective Thursday, Sept. 9, at 8 a.m.:

- international travellers will no longer have to fill out the Nova Scotia Safe Check-in form because the federal government has increased monitoring their compliance with the Quarantine Act
- the isolation requirement for unvaccinated domestic travellers changes from 14 days to a minimum seven days; to stop isolating after seven days, they will need two negative test results, the same as travellers who have one dose of vaccine
- people who are identified as close contacts of COVID-19 cases and have had two doses of the Pfizer, Moderna or AstraZeneca vaccines, or a combination of any two of them, are considered optimally protected and do not have to self-isolate unless otherwise directed by public health
- people who have had the one-dose Janssen vaccine or one or two doses of any other WHO-approved vaccine can become optimally protected if they get an additional dose of the Pfizer or

Moderna vaccine; an additional dose will be made available to anyone who meets any of these criteria and can be booked online or by phone

August 23, 2021 – Nova Scotia is targeting Sept. 15 as the start of the next phase of its reopening plan. Phase 5 will see border measures continue while most other public health restrictions are lifted. International travellers will continue to follow federal requirements. Nova Scotia's current border policy of isolation based on vaccination status and testing will remain in place for travellers coming from provinces and territories outside of Atlantic Canada. As of 8 a.m. on Aug. 25, the border policy will also apply to people coming from New Brunswick due to a rise of COVID-19 activity in that province. As of Sept. 15, the only restrictions that will remain in place for the general population within Nova Scotia are those related to management of COVID-19 cases. For example, anyone with symptoms must still get tested, isolate while they wait for results and continue to isolate if they test positive.

July 12, 2021 - Nova Scotia will start the fourth phase of its reopening plan on Wednesday, July 14. Heading into Phase 4, 75 per cent of all Nova Scotians have had one or more doses of vaccine, several thousand tests are being done daily, new case numbers are typically in single digits each day and hospitalizations are decreasing. There are no changes to Nova Scotia's border policy as Phase 4 begins.

Gatherings

- people can have informal gatherings with their household members and close social contacts to a maximum of 25 indoors or 50 outdoors without physical distancing or masks, unless they are in a public place where masks are required
- faith gatherings, weddings, funerals and associated receptions and visitation hosted by a recognized business or organization can have 50 per cent capacity to a maximum of 150 people indoors or 250 people outdoors

Business

- restaurants, licensed establishments and casinos continue to operate with existing mask and distancing rules; there can be up to 25 people per table; customers can go to the bar to order; establishments can return to their normal service hours; they can have performers following the limit for arts and culture performances
- events hosted by a recognized business or organization can have 50 per cent capacity to a maximum of 150 people indoors or 250 people outdoors; organizers need a plan following guidelines for events
- people can follow the informal gathering limit for dancing together at events and at bars or restaurants, with distance between groups; the indoor limit applies to dancing indoors and on patios at bars or restaurants
- all retail stores can operate at maximum capacity with public health measures in place, including distancing and masks
- meetings and training hosted by a recognized business or organization can have 50 per cent capacity to a maximum of 150 people indoors or 250 people outdoors

July 2, 2021 - International travellers can come to Nova Scotia following federal requirements effective Monday, July 5, aligning with the federal government's approach to easing border measures for international travellers. All travellers who are permitted to enter Canada will be able to come to Nova Scotia. This means more international travelers will be allowed to enter the province, including business travellers who cannot do their work virtually, and visiting Canadian citizens. All international travellers must follow federal quarantine requirements.

June 29, 2021 – Premier Iain Rankin announced that Nova Scotia will start the third phase of its reopening plan on Wednesday, June 30, including opening the border to all Canadians. People from other provinces and territories can come to Nova Scotia for any reason. They need to complete the Nova Scotia Safe Check-in form, upload their proof of vaccination electronically and be prepared to show it if asked by border officials. The requirement to self-isolate or not is based on their vaccination status:

- two doses of vaccine at least 14 days before arriving in Nova Scotia – people will not have to self-isolate; testing when they arrive is recommended
- one dose of vaccine at least 14 days before arrival and those who had a second dose less than 14 days before arrival – people must self-isolate for at least seven days and cannot leave isolation until they get two negative tests results while in Nova Scotia; tests should be on day one or two and on day five or six after arrival
- no vaccine – people who have not had any vaccine and those who had a first dose within 14 days of arrival must isolate for 14 days; testing at the beginning and end of their isolation continues to be recommended

Anyone from outside Atlantic Canada who is already in Nova Scotia and isolating can switch to isolation based on the above vaccination status and testing policy on June 30.

June 22, 2021 - Nova Scotia's borders are opening at 8 a.m. on Wednesday, June 23, to residents of the three other Atlantic provinces. The province will open to travellers from outside Atlantic Canada on June 30.

June 15, 2021 – Nova Scotia is lifting its border restrictions and opening to the rest of Atlantic Canada on June 23. This means that residents of New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland and Labrador can travel to Nova Scotia and will not be required to self-isolate for 14 days on entering the province.

June 4, 2021 – Starting June 8, travellers flying into Nova Scotia can receive a COVID-19 test kit at the Halifax Stanfield International Airport. Nova Scotia Health Authority staff will be onsite daily from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. to swab anyone who is unable to self-swab or needs support. Travellers who arrive between 8 p.m. and 10 a.m. will take their self-swab kit to their self-isolation location to complete there. The swab must be completed within 48 hours of arriving in the province and can be dropped off at a primary assessment centres. The self-swab kit is a PCR test - a lab-based test similar to the one used at primary assessment centres. People will receive results by phone or email within 72 hours of dropping it off. The new testing option at the airport does not replace the need to self-isolate upon arrival into the province. Even if a traveller's test comes back negative, the person must complete the required self-isolation.

May 28, 2021 – Premier Iain Rankin announced today that the province will reopen gradually under a five-phase plan. Each phase is based on COVID-19 activity, public health and testing capacity, hospitalizations and vaccination rates. Phases are expected to last between two and four weeks as long as certain criteria are met in these areas. Travel will no longer be restricted within most of Nova Scotia, although people are asked to avoid non-essential travel into and out of Cape Breton Regional Municipality and into and out of areas of Halifax Regional Municipality, Hubbards, Milford, Lantz, Elmsdale, Enfield, Mount Uniacke, South Uniacke, Ecum Secum and Tracadie. A final decision will be made about travel for those areas of the province early next week, based on COVID-19 activity.

Starting Wednesday, June 2, key changes in phase one include most businesses opening further, outdoor visits at long-term care facilities, and outdoor gathering limits increasing. In subsequent phases, businesses will gradually increase capacity to the maximum capacity possible with public health measures such as physical distancing, gathering limits will further increase, events and activities will be allowed with increasing numbers of attendees, and border restrictions will start easing. More details can be found [here](#).

May 19, 2021 – Current public health restrictions will remain in place across Nova Scotia until at least the second week of June. Provincial park campgrounds are currently closed. Private campgrounds can only be open for seasonal campers. No short-term camping is allowed at this time. People can go to their cottage or seasonal campsite outside their community only if they are staying there for the season. They cannot go back and forth between these places and their primary residence.

May 12, 2021 – Nova Scotians who must take time off work due to COVID-19 may now qualify for up to four paid sick days under Nova Scotia's new COVID-19 Sick Leave Program. People who cannot work remotely and miss less than 50 per cent of their scheduled work time in a one-week period due to COVID-19 may be eligible. This includes those who need to take time off because they are awaiting a Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test appointment, and those who are getting tested, are self-isolating while awaiting test results, or are going to get vaccinated. The maximum payment over the 12-week period is \$640 per worker. Eligible businesses that continue to pay their employees during their leave will be eligible to be reimbursed by the program.

May 7, 2021 – Nova Scotia announced further restrictions which included extended school closures, tighter border restrictions and isolation requirements for rotational workers, and limits on shoppers.

- Public and private schools will remain closed to students and at-home learning will continue until at least the end of May.
- New border measures will take effect at 8 a.m. on Monday, May 10, and will be in place until at least the end of the month:
 - Nova Scotia's border will close to people intending to move here
 - the border will close to people coming from Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland and Labrador; it was closed previously to non-essential travel from other provinces
- There will be no exceptions for funerals and limited exceptions to be with an immediate family member who is at end of life.

An application process will be added to the Nova Scotia Safe Check-in by May 14 for most travelers. An application process is already in place for specialized workers who are needed for urgent critical infrastructure work that's crucial for the province to function. Business requests for other workers to enter the province will not be considered.

April 30, 2021 – Due to the volume of testing in the province, the Nova Scotia Health Authority lab is experiencing a backlog in testing. About 45,000 tests are waiting to be processed. Most Nova Scotians are encouraged to use pop-up testing sites instead of booking a COVID-19 lab test over the next few days. The following people can and should continue to book tests:

- anyone with symptoms
- anyone who has been notified that they are a close contact of a known case

- anyone who has been at an exposure location
- anyone who has travelled outside Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland and Labrador

April 26, 2021 – All public schools in Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) and surrounding areas will close Tuesday, April 27, and move to at-home learning beginning Thursday, April 29. Tighter restrictions are returning in all areas of the province. the following restrictions are effective 8 a.m. Tuesday, April 27, and will remain in effect until at least May 20:

- the gathering limit is 10 total, both indoors and outdoors
- no social events, special events, festivals, arts/cultural events, sports events, wedding receptions, or funeral visitation or receptions
- faith gatherings are limited to 25 per cent of indoor capacity to a maximum of 100 or 150 outdoors, with physical distancing
- wedding and funeral ceremonies hosted by a recognized business or organization can have 10 people, plus officiants
- maximum of 25 people, with physical distancing and masks, for meetings or training hosted by a recognized business or organization
- maximum of 10 people indoors or 25 people outdoors for sports practices and training but no games, competitions or tournaments
- maximum of 10 people indoors or 25 people outdoors for arts and culture rehearsals but no in-person performances
- virtual gatherings and performances can be held with a maximum of 25 people in one location, with physical distancing
- restaurants and licensed establishments operate at 50 per cent capacity, provide service until 11 p.m. and close for seated service by midnight
- licensed and unlicensed establishments and organized clubs can operate at 50 per cent to host activities such as darts, cards, pool and bowling following their sector plans and guidelines for these activities
- retail businesses and malls can operate at 50 per cent capacity and must follow other public health measures
- personal services such as hair salons, barber shops and spas can operate but cannot provide any services that require the client to remove their mask
- indoor fitness facilities like gyms and yoga studios and sport and recreation facilities like pools, arenas, tennis courts and large multipurpose recreation facilities can operate at 50 per cent capacity
- outdoor fitness and recreation businesses and organized clubs can operate with 25 people and physical distancing
- maximum 50 people for businesses and organizations offering a wide variety of indoor recreation activities, such as indoor play areas, arcades, climbing facilities, dance classes and music lessons
- museums and libraries can operate at 50 per cent capacity

- in private indoor workplaces such as offices or warehouses, masks are mandatory in all common areas, places where there is interaction with the public, areas with poor ventilation, and areas where distance cannot be maintained
- visitors, volunteers and designated care providers are allowed at long-term care facilities
- visitors are allowed at homes licensed by the Department of Community Services under the Homes for Special Care Act and residents can have community access
- all adult day programs for persons with disabilities funded by the Department of Community Services are open
- all adult day programs for seniors remain closed provincially

April 25, 2021 – Premier Iain Rankin and Dr. Robert Strang, chief medical officer of health for Nova Scotia, announced changes to reduce the spread of COVID-19. The gathering limit outside of Halifax has been reduced to 10 people, whether indoors or outdoors. The gathering limit remains five in Halifax Regional Municipality as well as the entire communities of Hubbards, Milford, Lantz, Elmsdale, Enfield, Mount Uniacke, South Uniacke, Ecum Secum and Tracadie.

People are also not to travel outside their local community unless it is for essential travel, such as work, school, childcare or medical or legal appointments. These restrictions are effective immediately and will remain in effect until at least May 20.

In addition, the fines for breaking any part of the order under the Health Protection Act will double. A first offence will now be \$2,000. Employers are also asked to encourage and support employees to work from home as much as possible to help reduce possible contacts.

April 23, 2021 – Due to increasing cases of COVID-19, restrictions are returning in Halifax Regional Municipality and some communities on its borders. The restrictions are effective Friday, April 23, at 8 a.m. and will remain in effect until at least May 20. They apply to all areas of Halifax Regional Municipality as well as these entire communities: Hubbards, Milford, Lantz, Elmsdale, Enfield, Mount Uniacke, South Uniacke, Ecum Secum and Tracadie.

People should avoid traveling into and out of these areas unless it is necessary. Necessary travel would include for school, work, health care, legal requirements, and family visitation under the purview of the Department of Community Services. Travel for shopping, social events, family visits, practices or rehearsals are not considered necessary. A full list of restrictions can be found [here](#).

April 20, 2021 – Effective April 22 at 8 a.m., people from outside Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland and Labrador will not be allowed to enter Nova Scotia unless their travel is essential or they are permanent residents of Nova Scotia. The following types of travel from outside Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island or Newfoundland and Labrador are considered essential:

- people who live in Nova Scotia but their primary employment is in another province
- federally approved temporary foreign workers
- people who need to participate in-person in a legal proceeding in another province
- post-secondary students coming to study in Nova Scotia
- post-secondary students returning to their primary or family residence in Nova Scotia and parents who accompany them
- parents picking up a student in Nova Scotia to take them home as quickly as possible

- people who can demonstrate that they already have a new permanent address in Nova Scotia as of April 21 and are moving here permanently
- people traveling for child custody reasons following the child custody protocol
- people who are exempt from self-isolation following the exempt traveler protocol
- people traveling between Nova Scotia and New Brunswick for work, school or children in child care, following conditions in the protocol for travel between these provinces