

Ontario's COVID-19 Guidelines for Reopening Non-essential Businesses

As Ontario continues to allow more non-essential businesses to reopen as part of its COVID-19 framework for reopening the province, it's important to stay in the know on how your organization is affected and what guidelines you should follow to remain legally compliant.

THE THREE-PHASE RECOVERY PLAN

Ontario's COVID-19 framework for reopening the province is composed of three phases.

- **Phase 1** focused on protecting and supporting the province.
- **Phase 2** focuses on loosening emergency measures and reopening the economy by opening more workplaces and outdoor spaces, as well as allowing some larger gatherings.
- **Phase 3** will focus on transitioning to the "new normal" by reopening all workplaces responsibly and creating jobs and opportunities aimed at restoring long-term prosperity for Ontarians.

Organizations will begin reopening at Phase 2, and will be broken down into three stages.

STAGE 1

Considerations:

- Opening select non-essential workplaces that can modify operations to meet public and occupational health and safety requirements
- Opening some outdoor spaces and allowing for a greater number of individuals to attend certain events
- Continued protections for vulnerable populations
- Allowing hospitals to offer some non-urgent and scheduled surgeries, and other health care services

STAGE 2

Considerations:

- Opening more workplaces such as service industries, offices and retail workplaces
- Opening more outdoor spaces and allowing some larger public gatherings
- Continued protections for vulnerable populations and significant mitigation plans to limit health risks

STAGE 3

Considerations:

- Opening all workplaces responsibly
- Further relaxing the restrictions on public gatherings while still restricting large public gatherings such as concerts and sporting events

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- Continued protections for vulnerable populations and the continued practice of physical distancing, handwashing and respiratory hygiene, and significant mitigation plans to limit health risks

GUIDELINES FOR NON-ESSENTIAL BUSINESSES

Personal hygiene, social distancing and requiring sick individuals to remain home are still required at every phase of the framework. Where possible, non-essential businesses that reopen should still limit person-to-person contact, such as by limiting in-person meetings to only absolutely mandatory individuals, separating desks and other workspaces by 2 metres and only allowing one person per 5 square metres of open retail space.

Specific requirements and dates are subject to change at any time. Read more about the specific requirements and guidelines for Ontario businesses on [this page](#).

Visit [this page](#) for the full details of the framework, and contact KRGinsure for more information about COVID-19 and how it affects your business.

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