

COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus) Gathering Limits

Organized public events, social gatherings and wedding, funeral and religious services, rites and ceremonies

January 19, 2021

Version 4.0



Effective 12:01 a.m. on Saturday, December 26, 2020, the Southwestern Public Health region is shutting down with the rest of the Province. For our region, the shutdown will be until at least Saturday, January 23, 2021. The Southwestern Public Health guidance documents below reflect the restrictions within the previous COVID-19 Response Framework that are currently on pause. Please be advised that the Provincewide Shutdown guidance prevails.

Key Points

- Restrictions on gathering limits can reduce COVID-19 transmission.
- Gathering limits will vary depending on our region's current level within the **COVID-19 response framework** (Green-Prevent, Yellow-Protect, Orange-Restrict, Red-Control or Grey-Lockdown).
- See www.swpublichealth.ca for our current level.
- Gatherings that contravene these public health orders are subject to **fines**.

Guidance

There are several risk factors that help drive the transmission of COVID-19, including:

- close contact with others
- closed spaces
- crowded places
- forceful exhalation
- prolonged exposure

Close contact is the highest risk. Limiting these risks is critical to keeping Ontario open and safe.

COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus) Gathering Limits

To limit these risks, especially close contact, this resource outlines the indoor and outdoor gathering limits within each framework level at organized public events, social gatherings and wedding, funeral and religious services, rites and ceremonies.



PREVENT (Standard Measures)

- Limits for certain organized public events and social gatherings such as functions, parties, dinners, gatherings, barbecues or wedding receptions held in private residences, backyards, or parks, where physical distancing can be maintained:
 - 10 people indoors
 - 25 people outdoors
- Limits for organized public events and gatherings in **staffed businesses and facilities**, where physical distancing can be maintained:
 - 50 people indoors
 - 100 people outdoors
- Limits for religious services rites or ceremonies, including wedding services and funeral services, where physical distancing can be maintained (applies in any venue other than a private dwelling):
 - 30% capacity of the room indoors
 - 100 people outdoors



PROTECT (Strengthened Measures)

- Limits for certain organized public events and social gatherings such as functions, parties, dinners, gatherings, barbecues or wedding receptions held in private residences, backyards, or parks, where physical distancing can be maintained:
 - 10 people indoors

COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus) Gathering Limits

- 25 people outdoors
- Limits for organized public events and gatherings in **staffed businesses and facilities**, where physical distancing can be maintained:
 - 50 people indoors
 - 100 people outdoors
- Limits for religious services rites or ceremonies, including wedding services and funeral services, where physical distancing can be maintained (applies in any venue other than a private dwelling):
 - 30% capacity of the room indoors
 - 100 people outdoors



- Limits for certain organized public events and social gatherings such as functions, parties, dinners, gatherings, barbeques or wedding receptions held in private residences, backyards, or parks, where physical distancing can be maintained:
 - 10 people indoors
 - 25 people outdoors
- Limits for organized public events and gatherings in **staffed businesses and facilities**, where physical distancing can be maintained:
 - 50 people indoors
 - 100 people outdoors
- Limits for religious services rites or ceremonies, including wedding services and funeral services, where physical distancing can be maintained (applied in any venue other than a private dwelling):
 - 30% capacity of the room indoors

COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus) Gathering Limits

- 100 people outdoors



CONTROL (Stringent Measures)

- Limits for all organized public events and social gatherings:
 - 5 people indoors
 - 25 people outdoors
- Limits for religious services rites or ceremonies, including wedding services and funeral services, where physical distancing can be maintained (applies in any venue other than a private dwelling):
 - 30% capacity of the room indoors
 - 100 people outdoors



LOCKDOWN (Maximum Measures)

- No indoor organized public events and social gatherings, except with members of the same household
 - Individuals who live alone, including seniors, may consider having exclusive, close contact with another household to help reduce the negative impacts of social isolation
- Limit for outdoor organized public events and social gatherings, physical distancing can be maintained:
 - 10 people outdoors
- Limits for religious services rites or ceremonies, including wedding services and funeral services, where physical distancing can be maintained (applies in any venue other than a private dwelling):

COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus) Gathering Limits

- 10 people indoors
- 10 people outdoors
- Virtual and drive-in events and religious services, rites or ceremonies permitted

Additional Considerations

- All planners, organizers, operators and permit-holders of events/gatherings, regardless of their purpose and size, are responsible for assessing the risks associated with their event/gathering, and their ability to mitigate these risks. They are responsible for implementing measures to reduce the risk of infection among all those who participate in their activities. Anyone planning an event is advised to consult the [Guidance for Events during COVID-19](#) document for details.
- The Province of Ontario has mandated face coverings in all indoor spaces. Face coverings must cover the nose, mouth and chin. Some [exemptions](#) to the use of face coverings apply. Read the [full regulation here](#).
- Indoor capacity limits apply to events that are fully or partially indoors. Indoor events and gatherings cannot be combined with an outdoor event or gathering to increase the applicable gathering size
- Staff, workers and hired performers do not count towards the gathering limits.
- Gathering limits are subject to physical distancing requirements – all attendees must maintain a **two-metre distance from those outside their household**.
- Line-ups/patrons congregating outside staffed venues are to be managed by the venue (i.e., ensuring 2-metre physical distancing and face covering requirement while waiting in line).

Additional Resources

[COVID-19 response framework](#)

Regulations for each framework level:

- [O. Reg. 82/20](#) (Lockdown)
- [O. Reg. 263/20](#) (Red-Control)
- [O. Reg. 364/20](#) (Green-Prevent, Yellow-Protect, and Orange-Restrict)