COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus)
Gathering Limits

Organized public events, social gatherings and wedding, funeral and religious services, rites and ceremonies in Step 3

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Key Points

- Restrictions on gathering limits can reduce COVID-19 transmission.
- Gathering limits for Step 3 of the Roadmap to Reopen are found in Ontario Regulation 364/20
- Gatherings that contravene these public health orders are subject to fines.

The COVID-19 pandemic is evolving rapidly. This guidance is subject to change. Please visit the Southwestern Public Health website (https://www.swpublichealth.ca/) regularly for updates and announcements. This guidance is to support individuals and owners/operators on gathering limits and how to keep settings where people gather operating safely and includes mandated restrictions and capacity limits in place in Ontario’s Roadmap to Reopen.

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.

To limit these risks, especially close contact, this resource outlines the indoor and outdoor gathering limits within each step at organized public events, social gatherings and wedding, funeral and religious services, rites and ceremonies.
Reopening Step 3

• Limits for organized public events and social gatherings such as functions, parties, dinners, gatherings, barbeques, or wedding receptions:
  o Maximum 25 people if the event is held indoors.
  o Maximum 100 people if the event is held outdoors.
• Note: there are different limits for those who are renting event space within a facility. See guidance for events.

• Limits for religious services, rites or ceremonies, including wedding services and funeral services (does not apply to receptions):
  o Indoor permitted with capacity limited to permit physical distancing. All persons attending must comply with public health guidance on physical distancing.
  o Outdoor permitted as long as all persons attending comply with public health guidance on physical distancing.

• Fairs and Rural Exhibitions permitted with restrictions. See Schedule 2 section 28 of Ont. Reg. 364/20 for specific details.

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.
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- 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 Reopening Ontario: Roadmap to Reopen

Ontario Regulation 364/20 – Rules for Areas in Step 3