

# COVID-19 Requirements for Cooling Centres

Extreme heat is a public health concern that can lead to serious health impacts. It is important during these heat events that residents have access to cooling centres to provide relief and protection from heat related illnesses. Hastings Prince Edward Public Health requires additional measures in cooling centres to help reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19.

## **Screening Measures for Public**

- Post signage at all entrances explaining the conditions of entry:
  - [COVID-19 Retail Store Sign](#)
  - [Mandatory Mask Sign](#)
  - [How and When to Wear a Mask](#)
- Provide alcohol-based hand sanitizer (70-90% alcohol concentration) to be used by each patron prior to entering the cooling room.
- Each patron should wear a non-medical mask while in the cooling centre. If a patron does not have their own face covering, one should be provided. A mask does not need to be worn by those with medical conditions, or as noted in the [HPEPH memo - July 7, 2020](#).
- A staff member should record the name and phone number, as well as time in and time out for each patron accessing the cooling centre.
- Individuals should be asked to self-screen as per the [COVID-19 Patient Screening Guidance Document](#).
- Each patron should be told to contact a COVID-19 assessment centre for testing if they develop symptoms of COVID-19. For Bancroft, Belleville or Trenton, call: 613-961-5544. For Picton, call: 613-813-6864.
  - Any additional questions can be directed to HPEPH COVID-19 intake line at 613-966-5500 / 1-800-267-2803.

## **Physical Distancing**

- Maintain physical (social) distancing of 2 metres between people within the cooling centre (e.g. have chairs placed 2 metres apart and have a one-way flow to the room).
- Capacity of the cooling room should be calculated based on 1 person per 4 square meter of useable floor space.

## **Staff Requirements**

- Staff should be actively screened at the start of their shift, and periodically during all shifts.
- All ill staff must stay away from work whether or not they have COVID-19 symptoms.
- If staff are performing active screening duties to the public, they should wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) (e.g. medical mask and eye shield). Gloves are not necessary or recommended as hand sanitizer and handwashing facilities are readily available.
- All staff should be trained on screening protocols, proper PPE usage, cleaning and disinfectant products and their appropriate usage as well as protocols on how to respond to the public.

## **Cleaning and Disinfection Requirements**

- Clean and disinfect high touch surfaces (e.g. door handles, chairs) frequently.
- Clean and disinfect the alternate room for those individuals who answered a YES to the screening questions after each use.
- Washrooms provided for patrons must be cleaned and disinfected at least two times per day.
- Ensure disinfectants have a Drug Identification Number (DIN), expiry dates and follow the manufacturer's instructions. Ensure appropriate contact time is achieved (amount of time surface should remain wet with disinfectant).
- Support and encourage proper hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette by providing tissues, no-touch waste bins, and hand sanitizer to use after touching nose, tissues, or mask.
- Items that can not be cleaned and disinfected between use, should not be accessible to patrons (e.g. books, magazines, plush toys, puzzles, board games).

## **Water Distribution**

- Avoid the use of communal water fountains and bottle filling stations.
- If possible, provide bottled water to patrons.

## **Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) system**

- Ensure the HVAC system is adequately maintained with high efficiency filters.
- Keep areas near HVAC inlets and outlets clear (seating should not be in front of air vents).

**If you have any questions, contact your Public Health Inspector at 1-800-267-2803 or 613-966-5500 ext. 677 to discuss alternate options to reduce the potential risks to your staff and patrons.**

### References:

1. These recommendations have been adapted from Toronto Public Health [COVID-19 Guidance for Cooling Rooms](#), May 26, 2020