

COVID-19 PUBLIC COVID-19 Requirements for Food and Drink Establishments (Stage 3 – Green Prevent Zone)

March 19, 2021

Under the Green Prevent Zone*, food and beverage establishments including restaurants, bars, food trucks, concession stands and other food or drink establishments must comply with:

- [O.Reg. 364/20: Rules for Areas in Stage 3](#), under the [Reopening Ontario Act, 2020](#),
- [O.Reg 493/17: Food Premises](#), under the [Health Protection and Promotion Act, 1990](#),
- Any [Orders made under Section 22](#) of the Health Protection and Promotion Act, 1990,
- And any other applicable legislation

*Requirements noted below apply to premises operating under the green prevent zone of Ontario's COVID-19 response framework.

Requirements:

1. Safety Plan

A [COVID-19 workplace safety plan](#) (i.e., a description of implemented control measures) must be prepared in accordance with O.Reg.364/20, posted in a conspicuous place and made available to staff and clients upon request. A customizable safety plan template can be found [here](#) and a completed (example) safety plan can be found [here](#).

2. Screening

- Perform **active screening** of every worker before they enter the premises. The provincial screening tool for employees and visitors can be found [here](#).
- Record the name and contact information of every patron that enters an indoor or outdoor dining area in the establishment, unless the patron temporarily enters the area to place, pick up or pay for a takeout order.
- Keep these records for 30 days, and only disclose to Health Unit staff as authorized and required by law (i.e.: for contact tracing).
- Customers are to be “passively screened” by posting current screening signage: [Employee/Visitor Screening](#).

3. Signage

- Post [Employee/Visitor Screening](#), [Physical Distancing](#) and [Mandatory Mask](#) signs at all public and staff entrances directing those who are sick to not enter.

4. Physical Distancing

- Do not permit patrons to line up inside, or to line up or congregate outside unless maintaining a physical distance of at least two metres from other groups of persons and wearing an appropriate mask/face covering.

- All food and drink establishments must seat no more than 6 people together at a table. The establishment must also be configured so that patrons seated at different tables are separated by a distance of at least two metres or plexiglass or some other impermeable barrier.
- Limit the number of people who may be in the business at any one time to ensure physical distancing of 2m. If distancing is greater than 2m, face coverings or masks continue to be required indoors, with exceptions.
- Post your capacity limit and ensure physical distancing is monitored on an ongoing basis.
- Where possible, promote distancing through PA reminders, use one-way direction and distancing markers on floor, install impermeable barriers (i.e. plexiglass), use shopping carts to shield employees re-stocking shelves, or similar methods.
- Where available, offer online or telephone food and grocery orders with delivery or pick up services as alternatives to shopping in person.

5. Cleaning and Disinfecting

- Wipe down the carts/baskets, and debit machines with an [appropriate disinfectant](#) between each customer.
- Clean and disinfect high-touch surfaces and equipment frequently (e.g. handles on freezer/cooler doors, produce carts, conveyor belts at cash, touch screen surfaces, counters, etc.).
- Limit store hours and/or schedule staff to ensure proper [cleaning and disinfection](#) of all areas of the facility.

6. Mask Use / Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- Appropriate [personal protective equipment \(PPE\)](#) is required if staff are within 2m of another person who is not properly wearing a suitable mask or face covering, and are not separated by an impermeable barrier (e.g., plexiglass). PPE includes protection of the eyes, nose and mouth (i.e., goggles or face shields and masks). Cloth face coverings are not considered PPE. Employers also have duties under the Occupational Health and Safety Act to take every precaution reasonable to protect their workers. Refer to [Using masks in the workplace](#) and train all staff [how to properly don \(put on\)](#) and [how to properly doff \(take off\)](#) their masks and eye protection.
- Patrons must wear masks or face coverings at all times, except while seated for dining (some exceptions apply).
- If a customer refuses to wear a mask, the operator must ask why this is the case and ensure the refusal is for only one of the allowable exceptions under [O.Reg. 364/20: Rules for Areas in Stage 3](#).

7. Hand Hygiene

- Provide a method of hand hygiene for customers at points of entry and points of sale (i.e.: portable handwash stations or alcohol-based hand sanitizer).

8. Outdoor Dining

- If an outdoor dining area at the establishment is covered by a roof, canopy, tent, awning or other element, at least two full sides of the entire outdoor dining area must be open to the outdoors and must not be substantially blocked by any walls or other impermeable physical barriers. If the outdoor dining area at the establishment is equipped with a retractable roof and the roof is retracted, at least one full side of the outdoor dining area must be open to the outdoors and must not be substantially blocked by any walls or other impermeable physical barriers.

9. Entertainment

- No person shall dance, sing or perform music at the establishment except in accordance with the [O.Reg. 364/20: Rules for Areas in Stage 3](#). All retail businesses must ensure music played is no louder than the volume of a normal conversation.

10. Product Returns

- Product returns should be set aside for 72 hours before being returned to the shelves.

11. Stay Informed!

- Check our Health Unit website regularly for [COVID-19 Resources for Businesses, Organizations and Facilities](#) and for additional updates on the current “zone” status of public health measures that apply in our region.

Compliance and Enforcement

Non-compliance with these requirements may result in warnings, charges and fines under the Reopening Ontario (A Flexible Response to COVID-19) Act, 2020. Penalties may be up to \$100,000 per person (per day), one year in jail, up to \$500,000 for the officer or director of a corporation, or up to \$10,000,000 for a corporation.

If you have any questions, please contact your Public Health Inspector at:
1-800-267-2803 or 613-966-5500 ext. 677.