



Lambton Public Health
160 Exmouth Street
Point Edward, ON N7T 7Z6

Telephone: 519-383-8331
Toll free: 1-800-667-1839
Fax: 519-383-7092
www.lambtonpublichealth.ca

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Lambton County Businesses, Organizations and Municipalities,

Further to our letter on March 1st outlining the Province's move to the Exit Step, we are writing to offer additional information based on questions we've been receiving. Many are asking for clarification on the specific measures that are continuing and those that have been discontinued.

These details are outlined below, however, first, we take this opportunity to acknowledge the effort of the many local businesses, organizations and municipalities that have implemented the required measures over these past two years. With your commitment to reduce the transmission of COVID-19 you had to adapt your practices to respond to each change; and there were many. The diligence and extra resources required for implementation of these measures is recognized and appreciated by Lambton Public Health.

The following outlines the most recent changes to the public health measures in the [Exit Step of the Reopening Ontario Act](#) and we hope it provides the requested clarity.

Screening:

- **Active screening of customers/patrons and employees is no longer required by general workplaces/organizations or municipalities.** However, settings such as long-term care homes or retirement homes, other congregate living settings, schools, and child care continue to have specific screening requirements and must continue to follow applicable Directives and Guidance documents.
- **Passive screening continues to be required** ([posting of signage](#)).
- Workplaces that wish to continue, voluntarily, the active screening of workers and employees may use this [updated tool](#). This is, again, optional, and is not tracked or enforced.

Personal Protective Equipment; Masks and Eye Protection:

Mandatory:

- **Masks worn in indoor public spaces and work vehicles continue to be required as follows:** Businesses or organizations shall ensure that any person in the indoor area of the premises of the business or organization, or in a vehicle that is operating as part of the business or organization, wears a mask or face covering in a manner that covers their mouth, nose and chin during any period when they are in the indoor area unless exempted (see [Schedule 4, Section 2 \(5\)](#)).
 - **This includes employees in areas not accessible to the public where physical distancing (2 metres) cannot be maintained.**
- **NOTE:** Other sectors such as health care, schools and day care have additional directives from the Province that guide their personal protective equipment requirements.

No longer mandatory and could be implemented voluntarily:

- **Eye protection** for those that provide services to individuals not wearing masks and are within 2 metres of them

Capacity Limits/Gathering Limits:

- There are no mandatory capacity/gathering limits.
- Physical distancing measures are no longer required.

Food/Drink Service:

- There are no additional measures in addition to the above for the service of food in restaurants or any business/organization that is selling or serving food or drinks.

Health and Safety Requirements:

- Workplaces and organizations continue to be required to ensure that the business or organization operates in accordance with all applicable laws, including the ***Occupational Health and Safety Act*** and the regulations made under it.
- **Safety plans** continue to be required to be developed and are to be made available. Such a document describes the measures and procedures which have been implemented or will be implemented in the business to reduce the transmission risk of COVID-19. These measures can include:
 - **Cleaning and Disinfecting for high-touch surfaces.**
 - **Promotion of proper hand hygiene.**
 - **See Layers of Protection to prevent COVID-19.**

We understand that with the movement into the Exit Step there are significant changes that not all workplaces or organizations will be ready, or completely comfortable, to eliminate fully or even partially. While the Province has removed many of these measures from the Reopening Ontario Act, therefore, not mandating them to be implemented, some workplaces, businesses, organizations and municipalities may choose to continue such measures to ensure the safety of their employees and patrons. Therefore, workplaces, businesses, organizations and municipalities are encouraged to conduct a risk assessment of their facility(ies) or event(s) to determine higher risk elements where continued measures may make sense. Along with seeking legal advice, considerations may include:

- Settings and activities that present more risk of transmission such as crowded and closed spaces and close proximity of individuals.
- Activities which present more risk such as where forceful exhalation occurs; sports/recreation, yelling, or singing.
- Involvement of **vulnerable individuals**. The risk of severe health outcomes is not the same for all individuals. Risk increases with age and for people with certain medical conditions.
- Ability to consistently engage in **public health measures** such as wearing a mask, hand hygiene, and disinfecting.

Additional resources can be found on the **Lambton Public Health Workplaces and Institutions** webpage. Please reach out to our Workplace Liaison Team with any questions or concerns you may have.

Sincerely,

Workplace and Municipal COVID-19 Liaison Team

LAMBTON PUBLIC HEALTH | County of Lambton
 150 N. Christina St., 2nd Floor, Sarnia ON N7T 8H3
 p: 519-383-8331 | 1-800-667-1839
 e: workplacewellness@county-lambton.on.ca