



**RULES FOR OPENING ONTARIO'S
INDOOR RESTAURANT AND EVENT AREAS
IN STAGE 3**

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Introduction

As several regions across the province begin to move into Stage 3 of re-opening, businesses must adhere to the Guidelines of their Local Public Health Units on re-opening. Businesses must operate in accordance with all applicable laws, including the [Occupational Health and Safety Act](#) and the regulations made under it.

The following rules have been extracted from the Province of Ontario's [O. Reg. 364/20: RULES FOR AREAS IN STAGE 3](#). Revisions & amendments to these rules have been implemented by the provincial government on July 31, 2020. This document has been revised to reflect the amendments.

These rules apply to any business or place that is otherwise permitted to open under the Provincial Act.



1. RESTAURANTS & BARS

Restaurants, bars, food trucks, concession stands and other food or drink establishments may open if they comply with the following conditions:

- No buffet-style service may be provided.
- ~~Patrons must be seated when eating or drinking at the establishment.~~ *Revoked as of July 31, 2020. Amendment listed below.*
- The establishment must 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.
- No person shall dance, sing or perform music at the establishment except:
 - A person or group under contract with the establishment may dance, sing or perform music in compliance with the requirements set out under performing arts regulations.
 - Members of the public may sing or perform music at the establishment if,
 - They are separated from every other person, including from other performers, by plexiglass or some other impermeable barrier while singing or while performing on a brass or wind instrument;
 - They maintain a physical distance of at least two metres from every other person while singing or performing music; and
 - Any equipment used by members of the public while singing or performing music is cleaned and disinfected between each use.

AMENDMENTS AS OF JULY 31, 2020:

- All patrons will be required to be seated at **all times**, in both indoor and outdoor areas, with limited exceptions including:
 - while entering the area and while moving to their table
 - while placing or picking up an order
 - while paying for an order
 - while exiting the area
 - while going to or returning from a washroom,
 - while lining up to do anything described in the above exceptions
 - where necessary for the purposes of health and safety
- Bars and restaurants (and also tour boat operators) in Ontario will be required to keep **client logs** for a period of 30 days and to disclose the client logs to the medical officer of health or an inspector under the *Health Protection and Promotion Act* on request, which will support case and contact tracing.
- The person responsible for the establishment must:
 - record the name and contact information of every patron who enters an indoor or outdoor dining area in the establishment, other than patrons who temporarily enter the area to place, pick up or pay for a takeout order
 - maintain the records for a period of at least one month, and
 - only disclose the records to a medical officer of health or an inspector under the *Health Protection and Promotion Act* on request for a purpose specified in section 2 of that Act or as otherwise required by law

2. FOOD COURTS

A food court or other dining area may open if it is 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

3. CASINOS & GAMING ESTABLISHMENTS

Casinos and other gaming establishments may open if they comply with the following conditions:

- The total number of members of the public permitted to be in the establishment at any one time must be limited to the number that can maintain a physical distance of at least two metres from every other person in the establishment, and in any event cannot exceed 50 persons.
- Table games are prohibited.

4. NIGHTCLUBS

Nightclubs are closed, except for the purpose of serving food or beverages to patrons in accordance with the restaurant rules.

5. MEETINGS & EVENTS

The person responsible for a business or place that is open may only rent out meeting or event space if the total number of members of the public permitted to be in the business or place in its rentable meeting or event space at any one time is limited to the number that can maintain a physical distance of at least two metres from every other person in the business or place, and in any event is not permitted to exceed:

- 50 persons, if the meeting or event is indoors; or
- 100 persons, if the meeting or event is outdoors

This does not apply to the rental of meeting or event space for a wedding, funeral, service, rite or ceremony.

INDOOR WEDDING, FUNERAL OR RELIGIOUS SERVICE, RITE OR CEREMONY

This section applies with respect to gatherings for the purposes of a wedding, a funeral or a religious service, rite or ceremony, if the gathering is held in a building.

No person shall attend a gathering to which this section applies unless the following conditions are met:

- The number of persons occupying any room in the building while attending the gathering must not exceed 30 per cent of the capacity of the particular room.
- All persons attending the gathering must comply with public health guidance on physical distancing.

OUTDOOR WEDDING, FUNERAL OR RELIGIOUS SERVICE, RITE OR CEREMONY

This section applies with respect to outdoor gatherings for the purposes of a wedding, a funeral or a religious service, rite or ceremony.

No person shall attend a gathering to which this section applies unless the following conditions are met:

- No more than 100 people may be in attendance.
- All persons attending the gathering must comply with public health guidance on physical distancing.

GATHERINGS

No person shall attend:

An organized public event or social gathering of more than:

- 50 people if the event is held indoors, or
- 100 people if the event is held outdoors;

A social gathering associated with a wedding, a funeral or a religious service, rite or ceremony of more than:

- 50 people if the gathering is held indoors, or
- 100 people if the gathering is held outdoors.

A person attending an organized public event or social gathering shall comply with public health guidance on physical distancing.

NOTES ON MEETINGS & EVENTS

- An indoor event or gathering cannot be combined with an outdoor event or gathering so as to increase the applicable limit on the number of people at the event or gathering.
- Persons who are in compliance with public health guidance on households and social circles do not need to maintain a physical distance of at least two metres from each other while in a place of business or facility.
- Government's indication of a religious ceremony point to be more of a gathering for the service than the service of food.
- The 50 People permission in an indoor business or place is the limit for the entire building irrelevant if the facility offering multi-number of meeting rooms. This is will be under review for future expansion.

This is ORHMA's guidance of instructions to support the reopening indoor restaurants and meeting rooms and should be reviewed and implemented along with the **RULES FOR AREAS IN STAGE 3 Regulations** available at [O. Reg. 364/20: RULES FOR AREAS IN STAGE 3](#)

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HAVE QUESTIONS OR WANT TO CHAT?

Be in touch.

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