



The Lifting of COVID Measures in Ontario: Implications for Primary Care
March 15, 2022

The following outlines the OCFP’s best interpretation of the recent provincial public health changes and how these impact community practices. Detailed CMOH guidance and recommendations on IPAC, including use of PPE, are expected in April and we will continue to keep you updated.

Public measures (key changes)	Community-based practices (considerations)
<p>As of March 9, 2022</p> <p>Isolation requirements for COVID-positive cases and contacts – changes are the same for all settings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See summary on slides 7 and 8 here • The full Ministry of Health guidance is here 	
<p>As of March 14, 2022</p> <p>Capacity limits and physical distancing</p> <p>All settings may open at full capacity.</p> <p>The following are lifted in all settings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proof of vaccination • Capacity limit • Physical distancing 	<p>While not required, distancing where possible is still recommended.</p> <p>Continue scheduling symptomatic patients, where possible, at end of day.</p>
<p>Mandatory vaccination policies</p> <p>End in all settings including hospitals, long-term care homes, schools, and child-care settings.</p>	<p>Although staff vaccination in community-based settings is not mandatory, clinics may retain their own policies.</p>



Public measures (key changes)	Community-based practices (considerations)
<p>As of March 21, 2022</p> <p>Mask mandates</p> <p>End in most places, including schools and child-care settings.</p>	<p>Directives requiring masking in healthcare settings (including community-based clinics) will remain in place until April 27, 2022.</p> <p>We understand that after April 27, it is likely masks will continue to be required (TBD) in all healthcare settings (by government regulation) – including in community-based clinics. See below as well re: impending PPE guidance for staff.</p>
<p>COVID safety plans and screening</p> <p>Are voluntary and not required for businesses.</p>	<p>Until further notice, we suggest primary care continues screening staff and patients for COVID symptoms to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guide PPE use • Help keep sick staff out of the office
<p>As of April 27, 2022</p> <p>Ontario lifts all public health measures against COVID, and CMOH Directives end</p>	<p><i>Detailed CMOH guidance and recommendations on IPAC, including use of PPE, are expected in April.</i></p> <p>For now, until further notice, continue with existing PPE/IPAC protocols:</p> <p>PPE</p> <p>Wear N95 masks and other appropriate PPE when working with symptomatic patients. Reminder: for patients who screen positive, PPE also includes isolation gown, gloves and eye protection (goggles, face shield or safety glasses with side protection).</p> <p>CLEANING</p> <p>For patients who screen <i>negative</i>: use standard cleaning processes.</p> <p>For patients who screen <i>positive</i>: disinfect within 2 metres of patient as soon as possible, and clean and disinfect treatment areas, horizontal surfaces and equipment before another patient is brought into area or used on another patient.</p>