



December 20, 2021

Lambton County Restaurants and Food/Drink Establishments

Re: Provincial Measures to Respond to Omicron

In light of the rapid increase in COVID-19 cases across the province and locally, the following mandatory measures, [introduced recently by the province](#), are outlined below for your sector. In addition, continued measures that are required by all businesses that will assist in the reduction of further spread in our community, are outlined below.

Capacity Limits: Effective Sunday, December 19th, **50 per cent capacity limit** in restaurants, bars and other food or drink establishments and strip clubs.

Businesses or facilities will also need to post a sign stating the capacity limits that are permitted in the establishment.

To further reduce the spread of COVID-19 and the Omicron variant, additional protective measures are also being applied effective Sunday, December 19th to restaurants/food and drink establishments:

- The number of patrons permitted to sit at a table in a restaurant, bar and other food or drink establishment and meeting and event space will be **limited to 10 people and patrons will be required to remain seated**. More than 10 people may be seated together if everyone seated at the table is:
 - a member of the same household,
 - a member of up to one other household who lives alone, or
 - a caregiver for any member of either household.
- **Must open no earlier than 5 a.m. and close no later than 11 p.m.**, but may provide take-out, drive-through or delivery service outside of those hours.
- **The sale of alcohol will be restricted after 10 p.m. and consumption of alcohol in businesses or settings after 11 p.m.**
- **Singing and dancing in restaurants and bars and other select settings will not be allowed** except for workers or performers.
- Food and/or drink services will be prohibited at indoor sporting events; concert venues, theatres and cinemas; casinos, bingo halls and other gaming establishments; and horse racing tracks, car racing tracks and other similar venues. Restaurants, bars and other food or drink establishments including in these establishments can operate subject to the rules applicable to these settings (e.g., 50% capacity).

Enhancing Proof of Vaccination Requirements

- Proof of Vaccination requirement **remains in effect** for sports/recreational and fitness facilities. To reduce the spread of COVID-19, it is mandatory by Provincial law under the [Reopening Ontario Act \(ROA\) 364/20](#) that businesses continue to implement the [Proof of Vaccination requirement](#) at point of entry into their facility.

- In addition, **effective January 4, 2022, Ontario will begin requiring the use of the [enhanced vaccine certificate with QR code](#) and the [Verify Ontario app](#)** in the settings where proof of vaccination is required. This includes those individuals with an eligible medical exemption or who are participating in an active, [Health Canada Approved COVID-19 vaccine clinical trial](#). (p. 10). These individuals are required to obtain an enhanced vaccine certificate with QR code, by January 4th. The **QR code can be used digitally or by printing a paper copy**.

Continued measures required include:

Mandatory Mask Wearing

- By all employees and patrons unless actively eating or drinking.
- Employees must wear masks in employee only areas separated from the public if they cannot physically distance from each other at all times
- Employees must wear eye protection (eye goggles or face shield) in addition to masks when serving patrons less than 2 metres/6 ft. away that are not wearing masks.

Active Screening and Contact Tracing

- **All patrons must be actively screened** at the entrance using current [Ministry of Health screening questions](#). All patrons must provide contact information at the entrance to the business for contract tracing purposes.
- **[Active screening](#) MUST be conducted actively every day before employees enter the workplace.** Using this [Ministry of Health Employee Screening Tool](#) will ensure that your screening process is current, as the Omicron variant is changing the COVID response approach rapidly. Employees CANNOT attend work if they are experiencing **any COVID-19 symptom(s)**. If an employee has symptoms, they must isolate and get a PCR test as soon as possible at a [local testing centre](#). As stated in the provincial screening tool, anyone who is sick or has any symptoms of illness, including those not listed in the screening tool, should stay home and seek assessment from their health care provider if needed. Please refer to the [Workplace: Employee Symptom Flowchart](#) for further information.

Please connect with Lambton Public Health if you have workplace questions by emailing us or calling the COVID Information Line at 519-383-8331 ext. 3682.

Sincerely,

Workplace and Municipal COVID-19 Liaison Team

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