



Premier of Ontario
Le premier ministre
de l'Ontario

Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 1A1
Édifice de l'Assemblée législative
Queen's Park
Toronto (Ontario)
M7A 1A1

October 27, 2021

Mr. Wayne Emmerson
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
Regional Municipality of York
17250 Yonge Street
Newmarket, Ontario
L3Y 6Z1

Dear Mr. Emmerson:

Thank you for reaching out with your views concerning the impact capacity restrictions are having on restaurants in York Region.

Working side by side with the Chief Medical Officer of Health and medical professionals our government has developed the Plan to Safely Reopen Ontario and Manage COVID-19 for the Long-Term. It's a cautious approach to lifting the remaining public health and workplace safety measures – including proof of vaccination requirements and wearing face coverings in indoor public settings – by March 2022.

Our approach is designed to bring certainty and predictability to what the response to the pandemic will look like over the next six months. It will be guided by key public health indicators and supported by local and regional tailored responses to COVID-19. Slowly lifting public health measures will allow us to monitor any impacts on our hospitals and communities. Our strategy provides your members with the confidence they need to make plans of their own.

Thanks to our cautious and careful approach to re-opening along with stability in Ontario hospitals, our government has now removed capacity limits at the vast majority of settings where proof of vaccination is required, such as restaurants, bars and other food or drink establishments; indoor areas of sports and recreational facilities such as gyms and where personal physical fitness trainers provide instruction; casinos, bingo halls and other gaming establishments; and indoor meeting and event spaces. At this time, the government will also allow other settings to lift capacity limits and physical distancing requirements if they choose to implement proof of vaccination policies.

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In the absence of any concerning pandemic trends, further public health and workplace safety measures will be lifted on the following dates:

November 15, 2021

The government intends to lift capacity limits in the remaining higher-risk settings where proof of vaccination is required, including food or drink establishments with dance facilities.

January 17, 2022

In the absence of any worrisome public health trends following the winter holiday months and with students returning to in-class learning, the province intends to begin gradually lifting capacity limits in settings where proof of vaccination is not required. Proof of vaccination requirements may also begin to be gradually lifted at this time.

February 7, 2022

The government intends to lift proof of vaccination requirements in high-risk settings, including night clubs, strip clubs, and bathhouses and sex clubs.

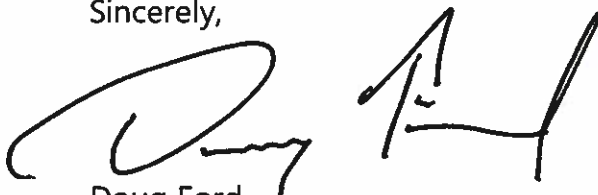
March 28, 2022

Remaining public health and workplace safety measures will be lifted, including wearing face coverings in indoor public settings.

To manage COVID-19 over the long-term, local and regional responses by public health units will be implemented based on what they're seeing in their communities. Local measures may include reintroducing capacity limits and/or physical distancing, reducing gathering limits and adding settings where proof of vaccination is required, among others. Province-wide public health measures would only be applied in exceptional circumstances, such as when health system capacity is at risk of being overwhelmed or if a vaccine resistant variant is identified in Ontario.

We should all be very proud of how far we've come. Due to your member's sacrifices and through working together we are now in position to gradually lift all remaining public health measures over the coming months. Our plan is built for the long term. It will guide us safely through the winter and out of this pandemic, while avoiding lockdowns and ensuring we don't lose the hard-fought progress we've made.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Doug Ford', written in a cursive style.

Doug Ford
Premier