

COVID-19 GUIDANCE FOR OUTDOOR ICE SURFACES/RINKS AND OUTDOOR SKATING TRAILS - RED CONTROL

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This guidance document is for municipalities and community groups who operate outdoor ice surfaces/ rinks and skating trails. It provides requirements and recommendations to help stop the spread of COVID-19 while operating outdoor ice surfaces/ rinks and outdoor skating trails. This document provides additional guidance and clarity for areas in stage 2, [O. Reg. 263/20: RULES FOR AREAS IN STAGE 2](#).

All owners and operators of outdoor ice surfaces/rinks and outdoor skating trails have a responsibility to assess risks associated with their facility and operations and ensure that they mitigate these risks for their employees, volunteers, and attendees. Specific to COVID-19, owners and operators are responsible for implementing measures to reduce the risk of infection among all those who participate in their activities (e.g. employees, volunteers, attendees).

Provincial laws and recommendations to prevent the spread of COVID-19 are subject to change without notice. The Province of Ontario has implemented the [Keeping Ontario Safe and Open Framework](#), which guides public health restrictions based on COVID-19 transmission in the province. The Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU) and local municipalities may also implement local public health directions/instructions, bylaws, and policies which can exceed the provincial laws and recommendations. Owners and operators of outdoor ice surfaces/rinks and outdoor skating trails should continue to consult with public health and their local municipality to ensure familiarity with the current laws and recommendations.

Under the Red - Control Zone, outdoor ice surfaces/rinks and trails must follow the following requirements as found in [O. Reg. 263/20: RULES FOR AREAS IN STAGE 2](#).

Setting	Capacity limit	Screening and Record Keeping
Outdoor ice surface/rink – not associated with a recreational facility	25 people maximum and physical distancing of 2 metres (6 feet) maintained	Self-screening by staff and visitors
Outdoor ice surface/rink – associated with a recreational facility	25 people maximum and physical distancing of 2 metres (6 feet) maintained	Self-screening by staff and visitors Record of individuals and employees
Outdoor skating trail	2 metres (6 feet) physical distancing	Self-screening by staff and visitors
Regardless of the setting, outdoor class, organized program or organized activity	25 people maximum and physical distancing of 2 metres (6 feet) maintained	Record of participants and employees

- **NEW:** Individuals in line or congregating outdoors around the outdoor recreational amenity must maintain physical distance of 2 metres (6 feet) from others and wear a mask or face covering.
- Hockey games or shinny are not permitted while in Red-Control, per provincial regulations for sport. Drills and shooting with physical distancing are allowed.
- Activities that result in individuals coming within 2 metres (6 feet) of each other are not permitted either indoors or outdoors
- Any locker rooms, change rooms, and showers must be closed, except to the extent they provide access to equipment storage, a washroom or a portion of the business that is used to provide first aid.

PROTECTING MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC, EMPLOYEES AND VOLUNTEERS

Operators shall identify possible work-related exposure and health risks to employees, volunteers and attendees and plan how to reduce these risks. Further, they should develop a contingency and business safety plan for the potential of a COVID-19 positive employee, volunteer or attendee. Individuals testing positive for COVID-19 will be directed by SMDHU to self-isolate. Individuals that have had close contact (e.g. spent prolonged time within a 2 metre (6 feet) radius) with an employee, volunteer or attendee will be advised if they need to take additional precautions.

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COMMUNICATE PUBLIC HEALTH RECOMMENDATIONS TO ATTENDEES AND VOLUNTEERS BEFORE COMING TO THE OUTDOOR ICE SURFACE/RINK OR SKATING TRAIL

- Encourage attendees and volunteers to conduct a [self-assessment for COVID-19 symptoms](#) before attending an outdoor ice surface/rink or skating trail and remind them to stay home if they have COVID-19 [symptoms](#), seek testing and [self-isolate](#).
- Encourage attendees and volunteers to maintain a 2 metre (6 feet) distance from those they don't live with, when possible, and to wear a mask or a [face covering](#) outdoors when physical distancing cannot be maintained. Post signage to reinforce these messages, sample signs can be found [here](#).
- Encourage attendees and volunteers to [wash their hands](#) frequently and/or use an [alcohol-based hand sanitizer](#) with minimum 60% alcohol content, and to practice proper [cough/sneeze etiquette](#). Post signage to reinforce these messages, such as the samples linked.
- Remind attendees and community volunteers that it is mandatory to wear a mask or a face covering in all indoor public spaces.
- Limit the volume of music to be no louder than the volume of a normal conversation.
- Post a [Safety Plan](#) in a conspicuous location for settings where this is required.

LIMIT ATTENDANCE AND ENSURE PHYSICAL DISTANCING

- Physical distancing means keeping a distance of 2 metres (6 feet) from those you don't live with off the ice, and while participating in outdoor classes, organized program or organized activity at outdoor ice surfaces/ rinks and skating trails.
- Plan and modify the layout of all ice surfaces/rinks and skating trails to ensure enough space is provided for employees, volunteers and attendees to maintain physical distancing at all times.
- Capacity limits for the outdoor ice surface/rink must be posted for users.
- Place visual / textural markers spaced 2 metres (6 feet) apart (e.g. tape on the floor, pylons, signs) to encourage physical distancing and guide users throughout the space. If possible, dedicate a separate entrance and exit.
- Consider a registration process with assigned time slots and set duration periods for using the facility.
 - Stagger arrivals and departures, where possible, to reduce congestion at points of entrance and exit and in common areas.
 - Identify areas where crowding and bottlenecks are common, such as lobbies, washrooms, and use staff or barriers to redirect people who may gather in these areas.

USE OF MASKS AND FACE COVERINGS

- Every person within an indoor space shall wear a mask or a [face covering](#) in a manner that covers their mouth, nose, and chin during any period when they are in the indoor area unless engaged in athletic or fitness activities. This is subject to exceptions set out in the Regulation. More information on the mask requirements is available on [SMDHU's website](#).
- In most circumstances masks or face coverings are not deemed necessary in outdoor recreational spaces when physical distancing is possible and can be maintained. However, use of a mask or face covering is recommended if physical distancing is not possible or is unpredictable. In some outdoor activities, wearing a mask or face covering may not be practical or tolerable. In those instances, physical distancing remains an important personal protective practice. Masks or face coverings should not be placed on young children under age two, anyone who has trouble breathing, or is unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance.
- The employer must determine what Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is required and ensure that it is worn by employees and volunteers.
- Educate staff and volunteers on the proper use and disposal of PPE.

HAND HYGIENE

- Post hand hygiene [posters](#) in employee areas and all entrances to any supporting amenities.
- Provide alcohol-based hand sanitizer with minimum 60% alcohol content in dispensers outside all entrances to supporting infrastructure, particularly near high-touch surfaces.
- Employees should wash their hands with soap and water frequently or use alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

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CLEANING AND DISINFECTION

Rental Equipment and Environmental Surfaces

- Encourage customers to bring their own gear for personal use, when practical and possible (e.g. helmet, skating aids, water bottle).
- Any equipment that is rented to, provided to or provided for the use of users of the facility must be cleaned and disinfected between each use.
- Do not provide rental equipment that cannot be cleaned between each use.
- Frequently touched points, such as door handles, railings and barriers must be cleaned and disinfected frequently and when visibly dirty.
- Ensure routine and frequent [cleaning and disinfection occurs](#) throughout the day in workspaces and ensure that any [washrooms open for use](#) are cleaned and disinfected as frequently as is necessary to maintain a sanitary environment.
- Provide adequate supplies and garbage bins for disposing used materials.
- Refer to [Public Health Ontario's Cleaning and Disinfection for Public Settings fact sheet](#) (PDF).
- Refer to Health Canada's lists of [disinfectants for use against coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#).

SCREENING AND RECORD-KEEPING

- Employees, volunteers and attendees shall conduct self-screening for symptoms of COVID-19, prior to attending the outdoor ice surface/rink and outdoor skating trails.
- Anyone with symptoms should stay home.
- Operators of outdoor recreational facilities must keep a record of individuals and employees (including names, contact information, dates and times) who attend the space. These records must comply with any applicable privacy requirements and could support case and contact tracing by the local public health unit. This applies to members of the public, staff and volunteers who attend outdoor settings even if they do not go inside a building.
- Encourage online or telephone sales and registration processes.

DRINKING WATER SYSTEMS

- Private drinking water supplies must be sampled ahead of facility opening, with samples sent to a private [licensed laboratory](#) and operators continuing to sample throughout the operating season in accordance with drinking water regulations.
- Small Drinking Water System (SDWS) operators must provide specific information to the SMDHU Medical Officer of Health in writing before reopening after a 60 day closure, or alter the construction, installation, alteration, or extension of the SDWS. To comply with these requirements, owners/operators must complete and submit the [SDWS notice and designation form](#).
- Limit the use of water fountains to be used only to re-fill water bottles, not for individuals to drink directly from them. Sample signage can be found [here](#).
- Water filling stations should be cleaned and sanitized at least twice daily. Refer to [PHO's Environmental Cleaning Fact Sheet](#)

Please contact Health Connection if you have any questions at 1-877-721-7520, Monday to Friday 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

REFERENCES

- Public Health Agency of Canada. (2020) *Risk mitigation tool for outdoor recreation spaces and activities operating during the COVID-19 pandemic*. Retrieved from: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/guidance-documents/risk-mitigation-tool-outdoor-recreation-spaces-activities-operating-covid-19.html>
- Government of Ontario. (2020). Guidance for facilities for sports and recreational activities during COVID-19. Retrieved from: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/guidance-facilities-sports-and-recreational-fitness-activities-during-covid-19>
- Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit. (2020). Public Health Guidance for Use of Public Washrooms. Retrieved from: http://www.simcoemuskokahealth.org/docs/default-source/COVID-/public-washrooms-guidance-document_aodaweb.pdf?sfvrsn=