

COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH GUIDANCE FOR MARINAS

– STEP 3

Last revised: September 22, 2021

The Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU) is currently at Step 3 of the province's [Roadmap to Reopen](#). This document provides additional guidance and clarity for marinas and other organizations that maintain docking facilities at Step 3, by following [Ontario Regulation 364/20 Rules for Areas at Step 3 and at the Roadmap Exit Step](#) (O. Reg. 364/20) under the [Reopening Ontario \(A Flexible Approach to COVID-19\) Act, 2020](#).

All businesses and organizations in the County of Simcoe and District of Muskoka must also adhere to the SMDHU's medical officer of health's [letter of instruction](#) (amended September 1, 2021).

NEW: The Ontario government now requires **patrons** 12 years of age and older to be [fully vaccinated against COVID-19](#) and provide proof of vaccination (i.e., proof of identity **and** vaccine receipt or effective October 22, 2021 digital vaccine certificate with QR code) to access certain businesses and organizations, with limited exemptions. More information can be found in [O. Reg. 364/20](#), in the province's [guidance for businesses and organizations](#) and [question and answer](#) resource, on SMDHU's [website](#), and in the general guidelines section below.

PREVENTING THE SPREAD OF COVID-19: PROTOCOLS AND POLICIES FOR MARINAS

The owner/operator, or assigned staff, should be present and checking to ensure adherence to the following:

GENERAL GUIDELINES

- Under Step 3, marinas (including boating clubs and other organizations that maintain docking facilities) are permitted to be open.
- Marina amenities such as clubhouses, the indoor portion of restaurants, indoor pools, communal steam rooms, sauna or indoor whirlpools, meeting rooms, indoor fitness centres or other indoor recreational facilities on the premises may also be open.
- **NEW:** The Ontario government now requires patrons 12 years of age and older (including indoor spectators) to be [fully vaccinated against COVID-19](#), and provide proof of vaccination (i.e., proof of identity **and** vaccine receipt or effective October 22, 2021 digital vaccine certificate with QR code) to access certain businesses and organizations, with limited exceptions. For more information about the requirement's application to restaurants and organized public events and gatherings held at marinas, see [O. Reg. 364/20](#), as well as SMDHU's guidance for [food premises](#) and [organized public events and gatherings](#).
- Grocery or convenience stores, restaurants, fuel supply, watercraft repair and servicing, watercraft docking and launching services may be operated on the premises of a marina, boating club or other organization that maintains docking facilities. Please refer to the [SMDHU Food Premises guidance document for more information](#).
- A sign with the [capacity limit](#) under which the boat tour, clubhouse, and meeting space rental is permitted to operate must be posted in a conspicuous location. Requirements for social gatherings at marinas (including boating clubs and other organizations that maintain docking facilities):
 - **Outdoor gatherings** are permitted up to a **maximum of 100 people as long as a physical distance of at least 2 metres (6 feet)** can be maintained from people outside your household (the people you live with), or one other person from outside your household who lives alone or is a caregiver for any member of your household. **Indoor gatherings** are permitted up to a maximum of 25 people as long as physical distancing can be maintained. Please refer to the [SMDHU organized public events and gatherings guidance document](#) for more information.
 - **Indoor clubhouse capacity** is limited to physical distancing of at least 2 metres (6 feet) and may not exceed 50% of the capacity.
 - **For rentable meeting or event space** found on location, the space is limited to a physical distancing of at least 2 metres and may not exceed 50% capacity or 1000 persons, whichever is less (some exceptions apply).
- The number of people on a boat is limited by the size of the boat given the requirement to maintain a physical distance of at least 2 metres (6 feet).
- Post [maximum capacity](#) posters in locations where they can be clearly seen.

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GUIDANCE SPECIFIC TO BOAT TOURS

- Businesses that provide boat tours in which the passengers are required to embark and disembark within the province of Ontario and that are not otherwise prohibited from opening by an order made by the Minister of Transport (Canada) under the *Canada Shipping Act, 2001* may open if they comply with the following conditions:
 - The total number of members of the public permitted on the boat at any one time must be limited to the number that can maintain a physical distance of at least 2 metres (6 feet) from every other person on the vessel, and in any event must not exceed 50 per cent of the usual maximum number of passengers that may be carried on board, as indicated on the vessel's inspection certificate or Passenger Ship Safety Certificate issued under the *Vessel Certificates Regulations* (Canada) or on an equivalent certificate issued by a foreign government.
 - The person responsible for the business must post a sign in a conspicuous location visible to the public that states the capacity limits under which the boat tour is permitted to operate. Sample signage is available on our [website](#).
 - No member of the public may go on the boat tour unless they have made a reservation to do so.
 - The person responsible for the business must:
 - i. record the name and contact information of every patron that participates in the tour,
 - ii. maintain the records for a period of at least one month, and
 - iii. 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,
 - iv. actively screen employees and any performers in accordance with the advice, recommendations, and instructions of the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health.

SAFETY PLAN

- A [safety plan](#) must be written and available on request. A copy of the safety plan must be posted in a conspicuous location where it can be viewed by staff and visitors (i.e., posted on a notice board, at a clubhouse, available on the facility's website, etc.).
- **NEW:** The safety plan shall describe the implementation of public health measures in the location, including, but not limited to screening, proof of vaccination verification process, physical distancing, masks/face coverings, cleaning and disinfecting of surfaces and objects, the wearing of personal protective equipment, and preventing and controlling crowding.
- Additional guidance on how to develop your safety plan can be found [here](#).

SCREENING AND RECORD KEEPING

- All staff and volunteers must be [actively screened](#) before attending work and follow the direction provided.
- Encourage visitors to conduct a COVID-19 [self-assessment](#) before coming to the marina or other organization that maintains docking facilities and follow the direction provided. If an individual has COVID-19 [symptoms](#), they should stay home, seek testing and [self-isolate](#).
- Every student who attends in-person teaching and instruction must be actively screened and follow the direction provided
- Post [self-screening signs](#) at all entrances.

PHYSICAL DISTANCING

- Assign staff or volunteers to remind of physical distancing measures, including but not limited to reminding attendees to:
 - Keep a distance of at least 2 metres (6 feet) from other people and boats.
 - Avoid using boat ramps and docks while other people are on them.
 - Avoid beaching boats right next to others.
- Remove any waiting area seating to ensure a minimum of 2 metres (6 feet) between seats. Install floor markers for any area where a line-up may occur to maintain physical distancing.
- Use floor markings and signs for one-way directional movement to reduce crowding.

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- Persons waiting in line or congregating must maintain at least 2 metres (6 feet) distance from every other person and must wear a mask when indoors or physical distancing is not possible.

MASKS, FACE COVERINGS AND EYE PROTECTION

- Every person indoors must wear a mask or [face covering](#) unless exemptions apply as per [O. Reg. 364/20](#).
- Masks or face coverings should also be worn if physical distancing cannot be maintained outdoors with individuals from outside your household in a manner that covers their mouth, nose and chin unless the person is subject to an [exception precluding](#) them from wearing a mask or face covering.
- Staff are required to wear medical mask and approved eye protection when within 2 metres (6 feet) of someone without a mask or face covering in a manner that covers that person's mouth, nose, and chin.
- If a mask or face covering becomes damp or wet, it should be replaced with a dry one.
- Post appropriate visible signage indicating that masks or face coverings are required inside the establishment. Public signage is available on the SMDHU [website](#) to download and print.
- More information about wearing masks or face coverings can be found [here](#).

HAND HYGIENE AND RESPIRATORY ETIQUETTE

- Everyone should [wash their hands](#) with soap and water or [use alcohol-based hand sanitizer](#) containing 60-90% alcohol content frequently and when entering/exiting the establishment.
- Provide handwashing stations and/or make alcohol-based hand sanitizer containing 60-90% alcohol content available at the entrances and exits.
- If hands are visibly soiled, handwashing with soap and water is preferred. If not available, hands must be wiped clean before applying alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Post handwashing and hand sanitizing posters in areas that can be clearly seen by staff and visitors. Sample signage can be found [here](#).
- Post [Cover Your Cough](#) posters in locations where they can be clearly seen.

INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL

- Develop policies for visitors, for example, payment by card preferred/only.
- Consider opening doors and/or windows to increase ventilation.
- Provide staff a dedicated location for breaks when they need to remove their mask to eat, drink or take medication.
 - Physical distancing of at least 2 metres (6 feet) should continue in break areas.
- While the risk of COVID-19 transmission through touching surfaces is low, it does occur. It is important to continue to follow infection control measures to reduce the various ways in which COVID-19 is spread. This includes appropriate cleaning and disinfection, as well as proper hand hygiene, masking, physical distancing, respiratory etiquette, and immunization.

CLEANING AND DISINFECTION

- In addition to routine cleaning and disinfection, surfaces that are frequently touched with hands should be cleaned and disinfected as frequently as necessary to maintain a sanitary condition, as well as when visibly dirty.
 - Examples of frequently touched surfaces include, but are not limited to hand contact areas, door handles, switches, tabletops, chairs, sneeze guards, restrooms, taps, credit card machines, and baby change tables.
 - Refer to the SMDHU guidance for [Public Washrooms](#).
- Any equipment that is rented to, provided to, or provided for the use of members of the public must be cleaned and disinfected between use and as frequently as is necessary to maintain a sanitary condition.

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- Remove equipment that may be difficult to clean and disinfect.
- For equipment, use only cleaning and disinfectant products that are intended for the object. Ensure products have a DIN, are not expired, and always follow the manufacturer's instructions.
- Use only disinfectants with a Drug Identification Number (DIN) given and [approved by Health Canada](#). Ensure products are not expired and always follow the manufacturer's instructions.
- It is recommended to maintain logs of cleaning and disinfecting.
- Limit the use of water fountains to be used only to re-fill water bottles, not for individuals to drink directly from them. Ensure they are cleaned and disinfected as frequently as necessary to maintain a sanitary condition.
- More guidance on cleaning and disinfections is provided by [Government of Canada](#) and [Public Health Ontario](#).
- While the risk of COVID-19 transmission through touching surfaces is low, it does occur. It is important to continue to follow infection control measures to reduce the various ways in which COVID-19 is spread. This includes appropriate cleaning and disinfection as well as proper hand hygiene, masking, physical distancing, respiratory etiquette, and immunization.

DRINKING WATER

Marinas, boat clubs or other organizations that maintain docking facilities with private water supplies must ensure water samples are taken before the opening of the operation, with tests from a commercially licensed laboratory demonstrating results to the satisfaction of the medical officer of health. Furthermore, water sampling should occur over the period of operation in accordance with their most recent drinking water directive under [O. Reg. 319/08](#) under the *Health Protection and Promotion Act*.

Encourage staff and boaters to bring their own refillable water bottle. Water bottles will be required to be filled rather than drinking directly from the mouthpiece of water fountains. Water filling stations should be cleaned and sanitized at least twice daily. Refer to PHO's [Environmental Cleaning Fact Sheet](#) and [SMDHU signage for water filling stations](#).

OTHER GUIDANCE DOCUMENTS

Operators should also refer to guidance from the Government of Canada: [COVID-19 Guidance for Canadians Using Marinas and Boat Launches](#).

SUPPORTING EACH OTHER AND OUR COMMUNITY

We understand that this is a challenging time, but public health measures like this are needed to limit the spread of COVID-19. We thank you for the service that you provide to the community.

Please contact the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit's Health Connection line if you have any questions at 1-877-721-7520, Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

While the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit aims to provide relevant and timely information, no guarantee can be given as to the accuracy or completeness of any information provided. This guidance is not intended to, nor does it provide legal advice and should not be relied upon or treated as legal advice. Users seeking legal advice should consult with a qualified legal professional. No one should act, or refrain from acting, based solely upon the materials provided in this guidance, any hypertext links or other general information without first seeking appropriate legal or other professional advice. Please visit the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit website regularly for updates and additional guidance.