

COVID-19 RESOURCE FOR CHARITIES & NFPS

ONTARIO MOVES INTO STEP 1 OF REOPENING REGULATIONS

JUNE 11, 2021

ONTARIO HAS ENTERED the first step of a three-step plan for reopening the economy after a province-wide shutdown due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. As of 12:01 a.m. today, June 11, 2021, new “Step 1” regulations are in force province-wide, relaxing some of the rules restricting workplaces and increasing capacity limits for public events and gatherings. The provincial government filed amending regulations earlier this week under the [Reopening Ontario \(A Flexible Response to COVID-19\) Act, 2020](#). All 34 of Ontario’s health units have been moved out of the “Shutdown Zone” to a new stage of reopening titled “Step 1” by way of Ontario Regulation 363/20, [Stages of Reopening](#), and Ontario Regulation 82/20, [Rules for Areas in Shutdown Zone and at Step 1](#) (“O Reg 82/20”), which effectively applies the same regulation changes everywhere in the province. This *COVID-19 Resource* page discusses those changes to O Reg 82/20 that may be of interest to charities and not-for-profits.

Schedules 7 and 8 of O Reg 82/20 set out a list of businesses that may be open, as well as places that must either close or may be open subject to certain conditions, respectively. However, even where a business may be open, Step 1 restrictions for working remotely still require that staff may only be on site if “the nature of their work requires them to be on-site at the workplace”.

Capacity limits for organized public events and social gatherings have increased for Step 1. **Indoor** gatherings “for the purposes of a wedding, a funeral or a religious service, rite or ceremony” itself are now permitted under Step 1 at 15% capacity of a room, up from a maximum of 10 people during the shutdown period. However, indoor social gatherings *associated with* those weddings, funerals, and religious services, rites, or ceremonies remain prohibited. Of note, there is no longer a set limit for **outdoor**

gatherings weddings, funerals, and religious services, rites, or ceremonies themselves, but everyone attending must “maintain a physical distance of at least two metres from every other person in the space where the gathering is held” and comply with public health guidances. **Outdoor** public events and social gatherings, including gatherings *associated with* those weddings, funerals, and religious services, rites, or ceremonies are allowed up to 10 people. For clarity, only the service, rite or ceremony itself allows for the 15% capacity attendance indoors, and has no set limit outdoors: any associated social gathering, such as a reception, must be outdoors and comply with the regulations. These restrictions apply even if the event or gathering is held at a private dwelling.

The provincial government updated its “Roadmap to Reopen” public policy information webpage on the Ontario.ca website: [Reopening Ontario](#), which presents colour-coded summaries for the province’s three-stage plan based on a percentage of vaccinated adults and “key public health and health care indicators.”

For further information about how this may impact your charity or not-for-profit, call us toll-free at 1-877-942-0001 or email tcarter@carters.ca.



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