

Original Issue Date: September 3rd, 2021

Updated September 7th, 2021:

- Updated 2 (c), 4 (f)

Dear Residents of Windsor and Essex County, Employers, Business Owners and Operators:

Cases continue to rise at an alarming rate in Windsor-Essex. As well, the percentage of cases that involve the Delta variant has dramatically increased. While the WECHU acknowledges and thanks the community of Windsor-Essex for their adherence to public health measures throughout the pandemic and for the continued rise in vaccination rates, we still have a long way to go to reach the 90% of our population fully vaccinated necessary to limit or reduce the impact of a fourth wave. Majority of the cases in Windsor-Essex continue to be among individuals that are unvaccinated or partially vaccinated.

At this time, I would like to remind our residents that COVID-19 is spreading rapidly in our community and all residents of Windsor and Essex County need to do their part to prevent the spread of COVID-19 by following these public health measures:

- Stay home if you are sick
- Maintain a physical distance of 2 metres from others
- Wash your hands often with soap and water or use an alcohol based hand sanitizer
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands
- Use a non-medical face mask when physical distancing is not possible
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or use the inside of your elbow when you cough or sneeze and
- Get vaccinated for COVID-19 with two doses of a vaccine approved by Health Canada

In addition, I am issuing additional instructions to control the spread of COVID-19 in our community. As Medical Officer of Health for the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit, **I am issuing these instructions pursuant to Ontario Regulations 364/20, Rules for Areas at Step 3.** In doing so, I am instructing all Windsor-Essex residents or persons responsible for a business or organization that is permitted to open under the *Reopening Ontario A Flexible Response to COVID-19, Act 2020 Regulation 364/20* to adopt the following additional requirements above and beyond the provincial regulations, effective September 7th, as of 12:01 a.m. and September 20th as of 12:01 a.m. for instructions related to Weddings and Funerals (number 4), and until further notice.

INSTRUCTIONS

To the extent that anything in these instructions conflicts with other applicable Provincial legislation or directives, those Provincial requirements prevail. Where conflicts do not exist, these instructions are additional to any applicable Provincial requirements.

1. General instructions:

- a. Take any and all measures to comply with all requirements in the Reopening Ontario (A Flexible Response to COVID-19) Act, 2020 and associated regulations and all local [Section 22 Orders](#).

2. General instruction for *all* Workplaces:

- a. Zero tolerance for non-compliance with all measures under the Reopening Ontario, A Flexible Response to COVID-19 Act, 2020.
- b. Review workplace safety plans with workers regularly, at least once per month and make adjustments as needed.
- c. Workplaces/businesses currently required under the Reopening Ontario Act 2020 (A Flexible Response to COVID-19) to keep a list of attendees (visitors, patrons, clients) to the workplace (i.e. salons, restaurants, bars) including name and contact information **must** provide the list to public health within 24 hours of a request from a public health official .

3. Restaurants, Bars, Nightclubs and Adult Entertainment Venues:

- a. Limit hours of operation to 12 am (i.e., midnight)
- b. Ensure all employees wear both a mask and eye protection (i.e. safety goggles, face shield) at all times when working both indoors and outdoors when physical distancing cannot be maintained or when a barrier is not in place
- c. For food or drink establishments with Dance Facilities:
 - i. Prohibit dancing indoors, except where dancing is part of employment and 2 metres can be maintained.

4. Weddings and Funerals (Ceremony or Reception):

- a. Prohibit dancing indoors, except for the marital couple.
- b. Limit capacity of wedding, funeral, rite or ceremony, including social gatherings or receptions related to these events, to the number of persons that can maintain 2 metres physical distance up to a maximum of 100 people.
- c. Prohibit the use of greeting or receiving lines.
- d. Ensure active screening at the event and prohibit any person that fails the screening from attending.
- e. Ensure that masks are worn at all times except when seated at your table.
- f. Ensure a process for vaccination verification is in place for all attendees as per instructions under the Reopening Ontario Act.
- g. Keep a list of attendees including contact information for all attendees.
 - i. Provide the list of attendees to public health within 24 hours of a request.

5. Meeting or event space, conference centres, convention centres:

- a. Record the name and contact information of every member of the public who attends a meeting or event and provide the record to public health within 24 hours of a request.
- b. Ensure compliance with all items under the Reopening Ontario Act, letter of instruction and section 22 orders for events using the facility, including instructions for weddings and funerals.

For the purpose of this Letter of Instruction:

- “active screening” means the process of answering a set of screening questions to identify any COVID-19 risk factors. Screening questions can be answered using a paper or electronic tool or questions may be asked directly by a designated screener. At a minimum, this process must include the question found in the Ontario COVID-19 Worker and Employee Screening Tool found here: <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/screening/worker/>

- “worker” means any employee, independent contractor (including temporary agencies, manager, director, officer, owner, partner, shareholder, volunteer, student or any other person engaged in the business of organization activity at the workplace).
- “workplace” means any land, premises, work vehicle, location or thing at, upon, in or near which a worker works.
- Any reference to “mask” or “face covering” in this Letter of Instruction is as per the Province of Ontario’s COVID-19 regulatory framework requirement, under the *Reopening Ontario A Flexible Response to COVID-19, Act 2020*, which require a mask or face covering to be worn “in a manner that covers their mouth, nose and chin”.

These measures intend to reduce the impact of COVID-19 in Windsor and Essex County.

Sincerely,

Dr. Wajid Ahmed, MBBS, MAS, MSc, FRCPC
Medical Officer of Health