

## COVID-19 Guidance for Outdoor Playgrounds and Fitness Equipment

Owners and operators of outdoor playground and fitness equipment need to implement infection prevention and control measures to minimize the risk of COVID-19 transmission for users. See Provincial Orders [O. Reg 263/20](#) for more information.

The aim and purpose of this document is to assist individuals and businesses with information related to the Ontario Government's reopening framework as well as Toronto Public Health requirements to reduce the spread of COVID-19. It is important to know that breaches of some of these directions will constitute offences under provincial regulations or other public health legal requirements. While we aim 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.

### Measures for all Workplaces, Businesses and Organizations

Review the [Guidance for Employers on Preventing COVID-19 in the Workplace](#) to plan and implement protocols to keep staff and clients safe.

### Masks/Face Coverings for Staff and Participants

The use of non-medical masks or face coverings is required in all indoor public spaces under a City of Toronto [bylaw](#) and [O. Reg 263/20](#).

- Organizations with indoor spaces that are open to the public must develop a policy on the wearing of masks. Use the [Checklist on Mask By-law and Sample Policy](#).
- Operators must ensure that any person in the indoor area of the facility (e.g., washroom), or in a vehicle that is operating as part of the business or organization, wears a mask in a manner that covers their nose, mouth and chin.
- Masks are strongly recommended outdoors when physical distancing is difficult.
- Not all patrons are able to tolerate a mask and may be [exempted](#). For example, masks should not be used by children under age two, and anyone who has trouble breathing.
- Train staff on these new requirements, including who is exempt and the [proper use of a cloth mask or face covering](#).

## Outdoor Playground and Fitness Equipment

- Outdoor playgrounds, including those with fitness equipment, are permitted to open.
- Prior to opening, inspect all fixtures and equipment to verify its safety.
- Outdoor fixtures and equipment do not need to be sanitized.
- Adopt strategies to encourage participants to maintain at least two metre physical distancing as much as possible.
  - Where possible, move benches, toys and equipment to ensure they are at least two metres apart.

## Signage

Post signs in visible locations to remind everyone to practice public health measures. Signs can include:

- Posters to [self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms](#), and to go home if they have symptoms.
- Notice that the playground and fitness equipment are not sanitized.
- Current gathering restrictions and reminder to avoid close contact with people you don't live with.
- [Physical distancing posters](#), ground markers, or other cues to stay two metres apart at all times, and three metres apart while exercising.
- [Hand hygiene posters](#) to encourage participants to practice good hand hygiene.
- [Signs](#) are available in [multiple languages](#).

## Drinking Fountains

- Water fountains may remain open. Clean and disinfect at least twice daily, if possible.
- Ensure all water systems are safe to use, if there was prolonged shutdown.
- Where possible, switch drinking water fountains to touchless or foot pedal operated.
- Encourage individuals to use a cup or reusable bottle, rather than drinking directly from the spout.

## Garbage Bins

- Install hands-free garbage bins near the playground.
- Garbage bins have removable linings, and are changed frequently to prevent overflow.

## Washrooms

- Clean and disinfect washrooms, change rooms, showers or similar amenities as frequently as is necessary to maintain a sanitary condition.

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- High-touch surfaces made of plastic or metal, such as grab bars, railings, door handles, bathroom surfaces should be cleaned more often.
- Ensure supplies of liquid soap and paper towels are routinely stocked.
- Where possible, open windows to allow for air flow and ventilation.

### **Playgrounds used by Child Care Centres**

- General routine cleaning is acceptable.
- Most outdoor playgrounds do not need to be sanitized. However, child care centres that have private playgrounds may consider routine cleaning of outdoor play structures and equipment. Follow the specific guidance for [child care centres](#).

### **Protective Measures for Participants Using Playgrounds**

- Monitor yourself and your child for symptoms of COVID-19. Stay home if you or your child is sick.
- If the playground is busy, find another park or go back later.
- Teach children how to properly wash their hands, avoid touching their eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands, and to cover their cough.
- Bring your own hand sanitizer (70-90% alcohol concentration), disinfecting wipes, bottled water, sun screen and personal items.
- Consider bringing your own toys or sports equipment to play with. These personal items should be washed with hot soapy water when you return home.
- Keep at least two metres from people you don't live with, when possible.
- Social gatherings must be limited to 10 people or less outdoors.
- Wear a mask or face covering in indoor public spaces, and when it is difficult to maintain physical distancing outdoors. Do not apply a mask on children under the age of two.
- Wash hands before and after using the playground.
- Download the [COVID Alert app](#) so you can be notified directly if you or your family have been in close contact with someone who was contagious with COVID-19.

### **More Information**

For more information, visit our website at [www.toronto.ca/COVID19](http://www.toronto.ca/COVID19) or call us at 416-338-7600.