

YCC 323/COVID-19 Update March 18th, 2022

Dear Residents,

Please be advised Ontario is eliminating most COVID restrictions **effective Monday, March 21st.**

As is the case in most communities some of you are excited by this news and some are concerned and had hoped for a slower approach. As was mentioned many times residents of 50 Quebec have risen to the occasion through many difficulties during the last two years. Things closing, re-opening, closed and re-opened again. We all had to learn and adapt quickly. 50 Quebec will follow the directives that have been issued by the provincial and public health authorities.

Masks

As of March 21st, no masks will be required except for high-risk locations like public transit, long term care, health care facilities etc. After April 27th, the mask requirement in those settings will end as well.

The choice to wear a mask after March 21st will be a personal one based on personal risk assessment.

People who choose to continue to wear masks should be treated with respect and we should accept a person's personal decisions and actions related to their personal risk assessment.

Ontario's, Chief Medical Officer of Health Dr. Kieran Moore reminds us that:

- *Removing the mask mandate does not mean the risk is gone*
- *Indicators may rise slightly as restrictions end and people interact with one another*
- *The end of restrictions is thanks to our high vaccination rates. Ontarians are encouraged to get fully vaccinated and boosted*
- *Remain kind, courteous and respectful to those who continue to wear a mask*
- *The most vulnerable to the virus should continue to wear a mask – immunocompromised individuals, transplant patients, and those with an underlying illness or older*
- *We should be prepared to return to mask wearing if a new variant of concern emerges or when seasonal viruses become prevalent*

Indoor Capacity Limits/Gatherings

The provincial and local public health requirements for physical distancing and capacity limits have ended. That is not to say that all will be comfortable with that. Many may still need space to feel comfortable.

Capacity in 50 Quebec gym, change room, games room, and meeting/library room returns to the traditional limits and will be used by residents at their own risk and comfort level. It is worth mentioning that some classes and activities are resuming cautiously.

Elevator capacity is also returning to the pre-COVID levels, with this we ask for patience and understanding for those who still feel uncertain and are not comfortable in an elevator with multiple people. We should remain aware and respectful of their needs and choices.

Active screening

Active screening of daily Site Workers & Essential Visitors screening is no longer required. However, for the time being, self-screening signage will remain posted.

Thankfully, pandemics have been rare. Negotiating COVID has been a HUGE learning experience for everyone. Despite the challenges and uncertainty, it is fair to say that the Pandemic brought out the best in the residents of 50 Quebec.

Enjoy the coming spring – the emerging buds, increasing birdsong and warming temperatures are blessings that have rarely been more awaited.