

The background features two large, overlapping teal-colored shapes. One is a large, irregular polygon on the right side, and the other is a smaller, curved shape on the left side. The text is positioned in the white space between these shapes.

# **Exiting Modified Step 2 of the *Roadmap to Reopen***

Briefing  
January 20, 2022

## **Exiting Modified Step 2 of the Roadmap to Reopen**

This deck presents a general overview of how the government intends to exit modified Step Two of the Roadmap to Reopen, as early as January 31, 2022, in the absence of concerning trends in public health and health system indicators.

While some public health and workplace safety measures are highlighted specifically, it is not intended to be an exhaustive list.

Details regarding the exact public health and workplace safety measures that will be in place, as reopening occurs, will be shared as the regulation is amended and approved by government.

## Context

- In response to the rapidly-spreading and highly transmissible Omicron variant, the province moved into a **modified Step Two** of its *Roadmap to Reopen* on January 5, 2022.
- These public health and workplace safety measures were intended to be in place for at least **21 days** (until January 26, 2022), subject to trends in public health and health system indicators.
- The Ontario government is now releasing its approach to **exiting Modified Step Two** of the *Roadmap to Reopen* which includes a gradual and incremental reopening in general alignment with *A Plan to Safely Reopen Ontario and Manage COVID-19 for the Long-Term*.
- This **gradual and incremental** approach will continue to help protect people and ensure the province continues to lift public health and workplace safety measures safely.

## Objectives

### Objectives for Exiting Modified Step 2 of the Roadmap to Reopen



Prioritize the return of in-person learning (i.e., schools are the first to open and last to close)



Prevent mortality and morbidity associated with COVID-19



Protect health system capacity



Re-open businesses that are currently closed. Mitigate against future closures



Protect public health capacity, including a need to support vaccination rollout

## Metrics to Exit Modified Step 2 of the *Roadmap to Reopen*

Lifting public health and workplace safety measures, gradually and incrementally, will be guided by:

- An **overall risk assessment** including the metrics below.
- Public health and clinical judgement based on the metrics, the current pandemic situation at the time, and the risk of resurgence.

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### METRICS

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- 1 Declining per cent positivity
- 2 Declining number of outbreaks in higher risk settings (e.g., long-term care homes)
- 3 Plateauing or decreasing hospital and ICU admissions

## Foundational Measures to Continue to Support Reopening



Staying home when sick (even with mild symptoms), or while quarantining / self-isolating



Vaccinating against COVID-19, with emphasis on third doses (and fourth where applicable)



Requiring proof of vaccination in select settings



Wearing a well-fitted face covering or mask



Maintaining two metres physical distancing



Practicing regular hand hygiene (e.g., washing hands thoroughly and regularly or using hand sanitizer)



Practicing respiratory etiquette (e.g., covering your cough)



Cleaning and disinfecting high-touch surfaces



Attention to ventilation, including opening windows to ventilate indoor spaces, when possible

# Approach for Exiting Modified Step 2 of the *Roadmap to Reopen*

Subject to a risk assessment, including key indicators remaining stable or improving, the following public health and workplace safety measures will come into effect:

21-day interval  
between changes



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|--|--|
| <p><b>No earlier than January 31, 2022</b></p>               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Fifty per cent (50%) capacity for most indoor public settings</b> (e.g., retail, restaurants, casinos, cinemas), with proof of vaccination required in select settings.</li> <li>• <b>Fifty per cent (50%) capacity or 500 people, whichever is less, for spectator capacity</b> in areas of facilities used for sports and recreational fitness activities (e.g., sporting events), concert venues, and theatres.</li> <li>• No restriction on hours of operation for restaurants, bars, or other food or drink establishments or sale/service of liquor.</li> <li>• <b>Social gatherings limited to 10 indoor/25 outdoor.</b></li> <li>• <b>Fifty per cent (50%) capacity for indoor religious services, rites, or ceremonies.</b> Outdoor limited to the # of people that can maintain 2m physical distance.</li> <li>• <b>Additional protective measures.</b></li> </ul>   |
| <p><b>No earlier than February 21, 2022 (Family Day)</b></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>One hundred per cent (100%) capacity for indoor public settings</b> (e.g., restaurants, casinos, cinemas) <b>where proof of vaccination is required.</b></li> <li>• <b>Capacity in other indoor public settings is the # of people that can maintain 2m physical distance.</b></li> <li>• <b>Fifty per cent (50%) spectator capacity</b> in areas of facilities used for sports and recreational fitness activities (e.g., sporting events), concert venues, and theatres.</li> <li>• <b>Twenty-five (25%) capacity for higher risk settings</b> such as food or drink establishments with dance facilities (including wedding receptions in meeting or event spaces where there is dancing), bathhouses, and sex clubs.</li> <li>• <b>Social gatherings limited to 25 indoor/100 outdoor.</b></li> <li>• <b>Indoor religious services, rites, or ceremonies limited to the # that can maintain 2m physical distance</b> (no limit if proof of vaccination required).</li> <li>• <b>Additional protective measures.</b></li> </ul> |
| <p><b>No earlier than March 14, 2022</b></p>                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>One hundred per cent (100%) capacity for indoor public settings.</b> Proof of vaccination continues to be required in existing settings.</li> <li>• <b>Social gatherings limited to 50 indoor (no limit for outdoor).</b></li> <li>• No limit on religious services, rites, or ceremonies.</li> <li>• <b>Additional protective measures.</b></li> </ul>  |