



LIFESAVING SOCIETY®

The Lifeguarding Experts

MEMORANDUM

Alberta and Northwest
Territories Branch

Date: July 3, 2021
To: Affiliate Delivery Partners & Facilities
From: Kelly Carter, Chief Executive Officer
Subject: Stage 3 of the Open for Summer Plan

On July 1, 2021, Alberta entered stage 3 of the open for summer plan. Since then, more information has been posted on the [Government of Alberta Website](#).

Stage 3 removes almost all public health restrictions that were previously imposed with some exceptions. Notable changes:

- social gatherings – you're now free to gather indoors and outdoors
- recreation, performance and entertainment activities can resume
- business closures and capacity restrictions are gone
- large events, including concerts, sporting events, exhibitions and festivals can return

Lifesaving Society Guidance

The Lifesaving Society has reviewed the changes to public health measures and will be retiring our guidance documents at this time. The next steps for our members and delivery partners include:

- Reviewing and updating your organizational COVID-19 safety plans and policies;
- Reviewing and updating your OHS hazard assessment and controls related to worker tasks and COVID-19 risk;
- Continuing to require health screening of employees and patrons prior to entering a facility; and
- Review the [Stage 3 Guidance for Activities With Children 11 and Under](#)

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Masking in Public

Mask use in public indoor setting is no longer required except for in the following situations:

- working in or visiting some health care settings, such as long-term care
- using public transit, including ride share vehicles, taxis, motor coaches and shuttles
- municipalities and businesses can set masking requirements as they see fit (requiring staff and/or customers to wear masks inside their place of business)

Occupational Health and Safety Update

Alberta Occupational Health and Safety released the following information to assist employers in determining their next steps as restrictions and bylaws change this week.

COVID-19 As a Workplace Hazard

As Alberta enters Stage 3 of reopening and COVID-19 restrictions are reduced, people are returning to the workplace. With changing pandemic-specific conditions, the hazard assessment must be reviewed and updated.

Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) legislation requires employers to protect the health and safety of workers at the work site and others at or around the work site. This includes performing a hazard assessment to identify existing and potential workplace hazards. The hazard assessment must include the potential for all types of hazards, including those related to the COVID-19 virus. Employers must involve affected workers when doing a hazard assessment.

Factors to consider when assessing the potential hazards from COVID-19 include:

- any orders of the Chief Medical Officer of Health that are applicable to the workplace
- active cases or symptomatic workers at your work site
- active cases in the region
- number of vaccinated workers, if available
- presence of persons with health vulnerabilities
- type and duration of interactions with other workers or the public
- physical distancing at the workplace
- type of work or activities performed
- how other hazards and controls at the work site might affect COVID-19 controls

Controlling the COVID-19 hazard

Based on the employer's hazard assessment and consideration of the potential for COVID-19 at the work site, hazards that cannot be eliminated must be controlled using the hierarchy of controls.

First choice: engineering controls. These control a hazard at the source. Depending on the workplace and processes, examples might include ventilation systems or physical barriers, such as plexiglass. Vaccinations are also considered to be an engineering control.

Second choice: administrative controls. These change the way people work. Examples include worker training or hand hygiene, physical distancing, alternate work arrangements or regular workplace cleaning policies.

Third choice: personal protective equipment (PPE). PPE controls the hazard at the worker. PPE examples include gloves, eye protection, facemasks or respirators.

If the hazard cannot be controlled by a single control method, the employer must use a combination of engineering, administrative and personal protective equipment to ensure worker protection.

Vaccination

Vaccination is an effective control to protect against the COVID-19 virus. The roll out of vaccines provides workers and all Albertans over age 12 an opportunity to be immunized. Current evidence indicates vaccines are effective in preventing illness due to a COVID-19 infection.

Employers should consider seeking legal advice on issues and laws relating to human rights, labour and employment, privacy, health information and occupational health and safety before asking for proof of vaccination or implementing mandatory vaccine requirements.

Source: *Government of Alberta, Occupational Health and Safety E-News distributed on June 30, 2021.*

Continue to monitor public health advise and adjust your operational plan as required. For more information on the current public health restrictions and recommendations visit the [Government of Alberta's website](#).

As this is an evolving response to a global pandemic it is important to realize that advice and recommendations may change. We will provide updates and clarification on this guidance as information becomes available. We encourage everyone to remain up to date by following current recommendations regarding the COVID-19 response from the Government of Alberta and local municipalities.