

COVID-19 Response Framework: Keeping Ontario Safe and Open

November 3, 2020

Updated: November 13, 2020

Ontario's Priorities

Limit the Transmission of COVID-19

Put measures in place that work to limit transmission and sickness, and prevent death.

Avoid Closures

Enable businesses to sustain operations while reducing the risk of transmission.

Keep Schools and Childcare Open

Enable schools across the province to sustain a safe environment for classroom learning.

Maintain Health Care and Public Health System Capacity

Ensure the health care and public health system are meeting the needs of their communities.

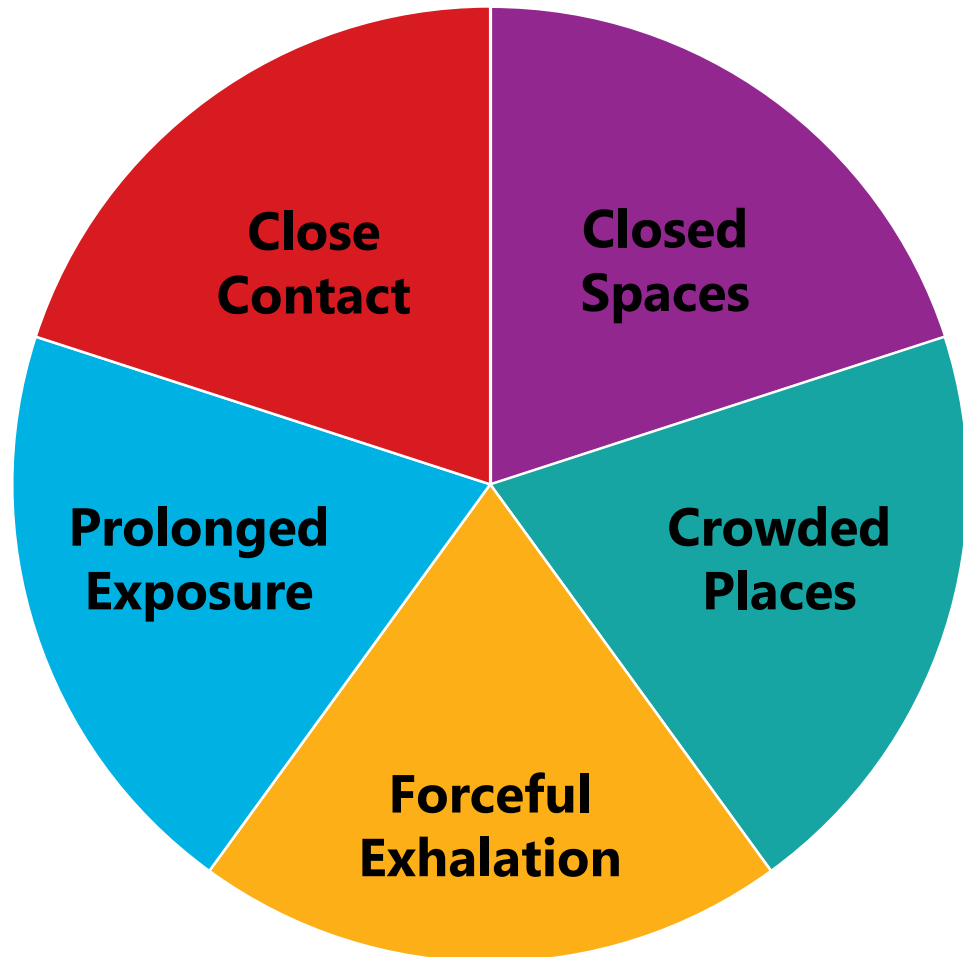
Protect Vulnerable Populations

Put measures in place to protect those most vulnerable to COVID-19.

Provide Additional Supports Where Possible

Develop equitable responses, including financial tools for groups and sectors disproportionately affected by the pandemic.

Key Risk Factors of Potential Transmission



There are several risk factors that help drive transmission of COVID-19. ***Close contact is the highest risk.*** Limiting these risks is critical to keeping Ontario open and safe.

Personal and public health measures — such as physical distancing, staying home when ill even with mild symptoms, frequent handwashing and surface cleaning — have significant benefits and have been proven to limit COVID-19 transmission.

It is critical the people of Ontario understand the risks of gatherings (crowds) in close contact in enclosed/indoor spaces to understand how to mitigate those and make informed choices.

Principles for Keeping Ontario Safe and Open



Responsible: Protecting the **health and safety of the people of Ontario**, especially those who are most vulnerable. Keeping child care centres and schools open are priorities.



Proactive, graduated, and responsive: Proactive measures, including enforcement, will work to prevent transmission, thereby protecting our health care system and helping businesses stay open. **Graduated measures should be targeted and informed by regional circumstances.**



Evidence-informed: Best-available scientific knowledge, public health data, defined criteria and consistent measures will inform public health advice and government decisions.



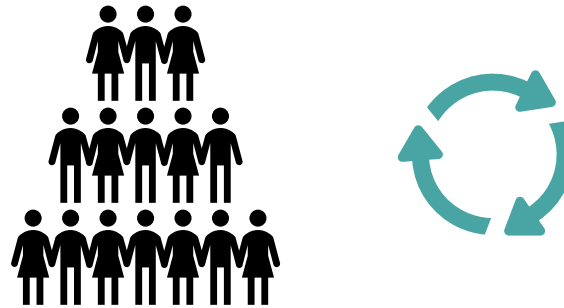
Clear: Plans and responsibilities for individuals, businesses and organizations (employers) will **be clear and outline what happens at each level.**

Outbreaks and Community Transmission

Outbreaks can start in a variety of places including workplaces, institutions, and other settings.



If spread of the virus is not contained, it often results in **widespread community transmission**.



Community transmission can result in further outbreaks, including in vulnerable settings.



When there are a few or small number of outbreaks, public health units can undertake aggressive outbreak management, **at each setting**, to contain virus spread.

This may include rapid case and contact management, enforcement of measures, and strengthening measures where the outbreak is occurring, etc.

Widespread community transmission requires **broader scale responses**. A response would include broad scale public health measures, restrictions to limiting/restricting access to control transmission, as well as testing, and case and contact tracing.

When this occurs, targeted actions, particularly in vulnerable settings such as long-term care homes, retirement homes, child care centres and schools, are required to prevent illness and death.

These outbreaks can also lead to further community transmission.

A Comprehensive, Whole-of-Government Response to Keeping Ontario Safe and Open

Actions and sustained efforts to limiting transmission and moving regions out of modified Stage 2...

Case and Contact Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Almost 4,000 case management and contact tracing staff province-wide undertake outreach to support isolation and testing to prevent further spread• Established target = 90% of cases and contacts followed up within 24 hours
Testing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Capacity to process over 50,000 tests/day; building to capacity of 100,000 tests/day by December 2020.• Established target of 60% of tests turned around within 1 day, and 80% within 2 days• Established benchmark of maintaining test positivity under 3%
Public Health Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Framework to progressively adjust public health measures to respond to the pandemic
Education, Compliance & Enforcement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Proactive education and outreach to businesses and organizations• Compliance checks, inspection, paired with education; monitoring, and Provincial Offences Act (POA) Part I or related tools to improve outcomes (e.g., warnings and fines)• Multi-ministry COVID-19 safety blitzes coordinated with local by-law and police services<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Includes fines and prosecution for blatant and/or repeated non-compliance; results shared with local officials and media, POA Part III or related tools (e.g., appear before court, potential for significant fine and/or jail time)
Targeted Supports	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Additional supports provided for vulnerable populations, communities, and impacted businesses
Communications	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Complementary communications plan supporting broad public education and awareness

Framework: Adjusting and Tightening Public Health Measures

Act earlier by implementing measures to protect public health and prevent closures

Gradually loosen measures as trends in public health indicators improve

Objective



PREVENT
(Standard Measures)



PROTECT
(Strengthened Measures)



RESTRICT
(Intermediate Measures)



CONTROL
(Stringent Measures)



LOCKDOWN
(Maximum Measures)

Tactics

Focus on education and awareness of public health and workplace safety measures in place.

Enhanced targeted enforcement, fines, and enhanced education to limit further transmission.

Implement enhanced measures, restrictions, and enforcement avoiding any closures.

Implement broader-scale measures and restrictions, across multiple sectors, to control transmission.

Implement widescale measures and restrictions, including closures, to halt or interrupt transmission (Return to modified Stage 1 or pre-Stage 1).

Restrictions reflect broadest allowance of activities in Stage 3 absent a widely available vaccine or treatment.

Apply public health measures in high risk settings.

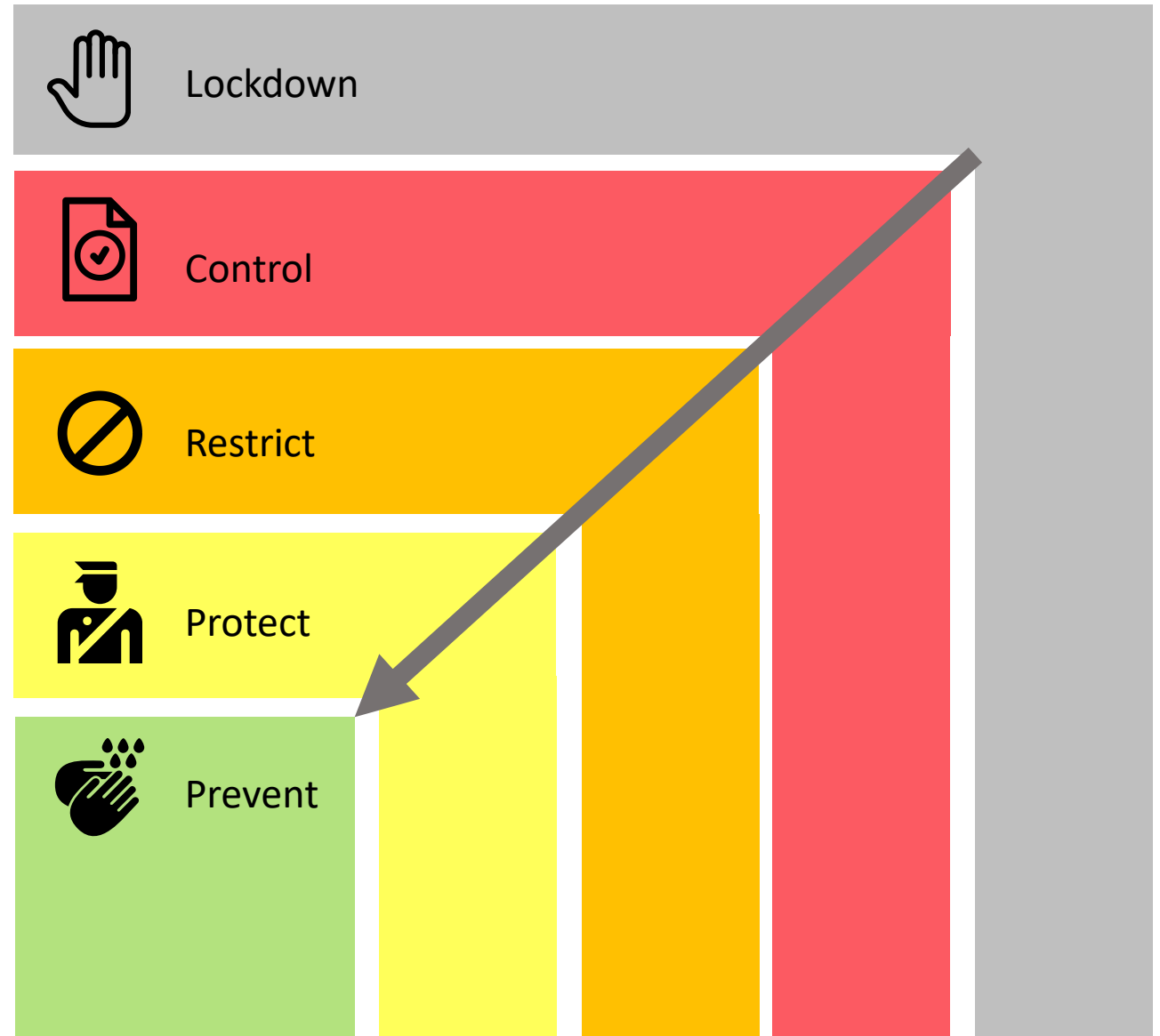
Restrictions are the most severe available before widescale business or organizational closure.

Consider declaration of emergency.






Highest risk settings remain closed.

Framework: Adjusting and Tightening Public Health Measures

- The goal is to have every public health unit region in the “Prevent” level.
- Framework is designed to ‘stack’ or ‘ladder down or up.’
- Measures are scaled back or implemented progressively, level by level.
- If trends are improving, measures are dropped cautiously, level by level, to ensure there are no significant community or public health impacts with the rollback of measures.



Indicators and Thresholds: Adjusting and Tightening Public Health Measures




 PREVENT (Standard Measures)	 PROTECT (Strengthened Measures)	 RESTRICT (Intermediate Measures)	 CONTROL (Stringent Measures)	 LOCKDOWN (Maximum Measures)
<p>Epidemiology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weekly incidence rate is < 10 per 100,000 % positivity is < 0.5 Rt < 1 Outbreak trends/ observations Level of community transmission/non-epi linked cases stable <p>Health System Capacity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hospital and ICU capacity adequate <p>PH System Capacity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Case and contact follow up within 24 hours adequate 	<p>Epidemiology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weekly incidence rate is 10 to 24.9 per 100,000 % positivity is 0.5-1.2% Rt is approximately 1 Repeated outbreaks in multiple sectors/settings OR increasing/# of large outbreaks Level of community transmission/non-epi linked cases stable or increasing <p>Health System Capacity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hospital and ICU capacity adequate <p>PH System Capacity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Case and contact follow up within 24 hours adequate 	<p>Epidemiology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weekly incidence rate is 25 to 39.9 per 100,000 % positivity is 1.3-2.4% Rt is approximately 1 to 1.1 Repeated outbreaks in multiple sectors/settings, increasing/# of large outbreaks Level of community transmission/non-epi linked cases stable or increasing <p>Health System Capacity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hospital and ICU capacity adequate or occupancy increasing <p>PH System Capacity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Case and contact follow up within 24 hours adequate or at risk of becoming overwhelmed 	<p>Epidemiology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weekly incidence rate \geq 40 per 100,000 % positivity \geq 2.5% Rt is \geq 1.2 Repeated outbreaks in multiple sectors/settings, increasing/# of large outbreaks Level of community transmission/non-epi linked cases increasing <p>Health System Capacity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hospital and ICU capacity at risk of being overwhelmed <p>PH System Capacity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public health unit capacity for case and contact management at risk or overwhelmed 	<p>Trends continue to worsen after measures from Control level are implemented.</p>

NOTES:

- Indicators will generally be assessed based on the previous two weeks of information. However, movement to apply measures will be considered sooner than two weeks if there is a rapidly worsening trend.
- Local context and conditions will inform movement, including potential regional application of measures.
- Thresholds within a region may not all be met at the same time; decisions about moving to new measures will require overall risk assessment by government.

Sector-Specific Public Health and Workplace Safety Measures

General Public Health Measures (Gatherings, Workplace Requirements and Face Coverings)





 PREVENT <small>(Standard Measures)</small>	 PROTECT <small>(Strengthened Measures)</small>	 RESTRICT <small>(Intermediate Measures)</small>	 CONTROL <small>(Stringent Measures)</small>
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Measures	<p>Gathering limit for certain organized public events and social gatherings (e.g. barbecues):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 people indoors • 25 people outdoors <p>Gathering limit for organized public events and gatherings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50 people indoors • 100 people outdoors <p>Gathering limit for religious services, weddings and funerals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30% capacity indoors • 100 people outdoors <p>Requirement for workplace screening</p> <p>Requirement for face coverings at indoor workplaces</p> <p>Requirement for face coverings in indoor public spaces, with limited exemptions</p> <p>Worker protections such as eye protection where patrons without face coverings are within two metres of workers</p> <p>Development and implementation of a communication/public education plan (highlighting risk)</p> <p>Requirement to maintain physical distancing</p> <p>Advice to restrict non-essential travel from areas of high-transmission to areas of low transmission</p>	<p>Measure from previous level</p>	<p>Measure from previous level</p>	<p>Gathering limit for all organized public events and social gatherings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 people indoors • 25 people outdoors
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LOCKDOWN
 Stage 1 / Pre-Stage 1



Measures for Restaurants, Bars and Food or Drink Establishments

	 PREVENT (Standard Measures)	 PROTECT (Strengthened Measures)	 RESTRICT (Intermediate Measures)	 CONTROL (Stringent Measures)
Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Require patrons to be seated; 2m minimum between tables Dancing, singing and performing music is permitted, with restrictions Karaoke permitted, with restrictions (including no private rooms) Require patron contact info (one per party) No buffet style service Night clubs only permitted to operate as restaurant or bar Line-ups/patrons congregating outside venues managed by venue; 2m distance and face covering required Face coverings except when eating or drinking only Eye protection where patrons without face coverings are within 2m of workers 	<p>Measures from previous levels and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limit operating hours, establishments must close at midnight Liquor sold or served only between 9 a.m. to 11 p.m. No consumption of liquor permitted between 12 a.m. to 9 a.m. Require contact information for all seated patrons Limit of 6 people may be seated together Limit volume of music (e.g., to be no louder than the volume of a normal conversation) Safety plan available upon request 	<p>Measures from previous levels and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 50 person indoor seated capacity limit Limit operating hours, establishments close at 10 p.m. Liquor sold or served only between 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. No consumption of liquor between 10 p.m. and 9 a.m. Require screening of patrons (e.g., questionnaire) Limit of 4 people may be seated together Closure of strip clubs 	<p>Measures from previous levels and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maximum number of patrons permitted to be seated indoors is 10 Outdoor dining, take out, drive through, and delivery permitted Dancing, singing and the live performance of brass or wind instruments are prohibited

Measures for Sports and Recreational Fitness



PREVENT (Standard Measures)



PROTECT (Strengthened Measures)



RESTRICT (Intermediate Measures)



CONTROL (Stringent Measures)

Measures

- 50 people indoors (classes)
- 100 people outdoors (classes)
- 50 people indoors (area with weights or exercise equipment)
- Spectators allowed (50 indoors and 100 outdoors)
- Limit of 50 people per room basis if operating in compliance with a plan approved by the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health ([Guidance for Facilities for Sport and Recreational Fitness Activities During COVID-19](#))
- Team or individual sports must be modified to avoid physical contact; 50 people per league
- Exemption for high performance athletes and parasports
- Limit volume of music to conversation level and prevent shouting by both instructors and members of the public
- Face coverings required except when exercising.

- Measures from previous levels and:
- Increase spacing between patrons to 3m for areas of a sport or recreational facility where there are weights/weight machines and exercise/fitness classes
 - Recreational programs limited to 10 people per room indoors and 25 outdoors
 - Require contact information for all patrons and attendance for team sports
 - Require reservation for entry; one reservation for teams
 - [Safety plan](#) available upon request

- Measures from previous levels and:
- Maximum 50 people per facility (revoke OCMOH approved plan) in all combined recreational fitness spaces or programs (not pools, rinks at arenas, community centres, and multi-purpose facilities)
 - Require screening of members of the public, including spectators (e.g., questionnaire)
 - Limit duration of stay to 90 minutes except if engaging in sport
 - No spectators permitted (exemption for parent/guardian supervision of children)

- Measures from previous levels and:
- Gyms and fitness studios permitted to be open:
 - 10 people indoors (classes)
 - 25 people outdoors (classes)
 - 10 people indoors (areas with weights or exercise equipment)
 - All sports and recreational programs in other facilities (arenas and multiplexes) limited to 10 people per room indoors and 25 outdoors.
 - Team sports must not be practiced or played except for training (no games or scrimmage)
 - No contact permitted for team or individual sports

Measures for Meeting and Event Spaces



PREVENT
(Standard Measures)



PROTECT
(Strengthened Measures)



RESTRICT
(Intermediate Measures)



CONTROL
(Stringent Measures)

Measures

Limits:

- 50 people indoors
- 100 people outdoors

*exception for court/government services, weddings, funerals

- Booking multiple rooms for the same event not permitted
- 50 indoors per room, where physical distancing can be maintained if venue operates in accordance with the approved plan from the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health ([Guidance for Meeting and Event Facilities During COVID-19](#))

Measures from previous levels and:

- Limit operating hours, establishments must close at midnight
- Liquor sold or served only between 9 a.m. to 11 p.m.
- No consumption of liquor permitted between 12 a.m. to 9 a.m.
- Require contact information for all seated patrons
- Limit of 6 people may be seated together
- Limit volume of music (e.g., to be no louder than the volume of a normal conversation)
- [Safety plan](#) available upon request

Measures from previous levels and:

- Maximum of 50 people per facility (revoke capacity limit on a per room basis as per OCMOH plan)
- Limit operating hours, establishments close at 10 p.m.
- Liquor sold or served only between 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.
- No consumption of liquor between 10 p.m. and 9 a.m.
- Limit of 4 people may be seated together
- Require screening of patrons (e.g., questionnaire)





Measures from previous levels and:

Limits:

- 10 people per facility indoors
- 25 people outdoors

LOCKDOWN
Stage 1 / Pre-Stage 1





Measures for Retail

	 PREVENT (Standard Measures)	 PROTECT (Strengthened Measures)	 RESTRICT (Intermediate Measures)	 CONTROL (Stringent Measures)
Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fitting rooms must be limited to non-adjacent stalls Line-ups/patrons congregating outside venues managed by venue; 2m distance and face covering required 	Measure from previous level and: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limit volume of music (e.g., to be no louder than the volume of a normal conversation) For malls a safety plan must be available upon request 	Measures from previous level and: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Require screening of patrons at mall entrances (e.g., questionnaire) For consideration during winter: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limit capacity in retail stores and in shopping malls 	Measures from previous levels and: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maximum number of patrons permitted to be seated indoors in mall food court is 10 For consideration during winter holiday season: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limit capacity in retail stores and in shopping malls
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guidance for mall operators and retail stores 			

LOCKDOWN
 Stage 1 / Pre-Stage 1








Measures for Personal Care Services

	 PREVENT (Standard Measures)	 PROTECT (Strengthened Measures)	 RESTRICT (Intermediate Measures)	 CONTROL (Stringent Measures)
Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oxygen bars, steam rooms, and saunas closed 	Measures from previous level and: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Require contact information from all patrons Safety plan available upon request 	Measures from previous level and: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Services requiring removal of face coverings prohibited Change rooms & showers closed Bath houses, other adult venues, hot tubs, floating pools, whirlpools and sensory deprivation pods closed (some exceptions) Require screening of patrons (e.g., questionnaire) 	Measures from previous level <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Services requiring removal of face coverings prohibited

LOCKDOWN
 Stage 1 / Pre-Stage 1



Measures for Casinos, Bingo Halls and Gaming Establishments

	 PREVENT (Standard Measures)	 PROTECT (Strengthened Measures)	 RESTRICT (Intermediate Measures)	 CONTROL (Stringent Measures)	LOCKDOWN Stage 1 / Pre-Stage 1 
Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capacity cannot exceed 50 persons. Table games are prohibited. OR casinos, bingo halls, and gaming establishments operate in accordance with a plan approved by the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health. 	Measures from previous level and: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liquor sold or served only between 9 a.m. to 11 p.m. No consumption of liquor permitted between 12 a.m. to 9 a.m. Require contact information from all patrons Safety plan available upon request 	Measures from previous levels, and: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liquor sold or served only between 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. No consumption of liquor between 10 p.m. and 9 a.m. Require screening of patrons (e.g., questionnaire) 	Measures from previous levels and: Limits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 people per facility indoors 25 people outdoors 	

Measures for Cinemas



PREVENT
(Standard Measures)



PROTECT
(Strengthened Measures)



RESTRICT
(Intermediate Measures)



CONTROL
(Stringent Measures)

Measures

- In facility/area
- 50 indoors
 - 100 outdoors
- OR
- 50 indoors per auditorium if cinema operates in accordance with the approved plan from the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health ([Guidance for Movie Theatres During COVID-19](#))
 - Face coverings except when eating or drinking only
 - Drive-in cinemas permitted to operate, subject to restrictions

- Measures from previous level and:
- Liquor sold or served only between 9 a.m. to 11 p.m.
 - No consumption of liquor permitted between 12 a.m. to 9 a.m.
 - Require contact information from all patrons
 - [Safety plan](#) available upon request

- Measures from previous levels and:
- 50 per facility (revoke OCMOH approved plan)
 - Liquor sold or served only between 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.
 - No consumption of liquor between 10 p.m. and 9 a.m.
 - Require screening of patrons (e.g., questionnaire)

- Closed, except for:
- Drive-in cinemas
 - Rehearsal or performing a recorded or broadcasted event remains permitted
 - Singers and players of brass or wind instruments must be separated from any other performers by plexiglass or other impermeable barrier

LOCKDOWN
Stage 1 / Pre-Stage 1

Measures for Performing Arts Facilities



PREVENT
(Standard Measures)



PROTECT
(Strengthened Measures)



RESTRICT
(Intermediate Measures)



CONTROL
(Stringent Measures)

Measures

- 50 spectators indoors and 100 spectators outdoors with 2m physical distance maintained
- Singers and players of wind or brass instruments must be separated from spectators by plexiglass or some other impermeable barrier
- Rehearsal or performing a recorded or broadcasted event permitted
- Performers and employees must maintain 2m physical distance except for purposes of the performance
- Drive-in performances permitted

- Measures from previous level and:
- Liquor sold or served only between 9 a.m. to 11 p.m.
 - No consumption of liquor permitted between 12 a.m. to 9 a.m.
 - Require contact information from all patrons
 - [Safety plan](#) available upon request

- Measures from previous levels and:
- Liquor sold or served only between 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.
 - No consumption of liquor between 10 p.m. and 9 a.m.
 - Require screening of patrons (e.g., questionnaire)

- Measures from previous levels and:
- Closed to spectators
 - Rehearsal or performing a recorded or broadcasted event remains permitted
 - Singers and players of brass or wind instruments must be separated from any other performers by plexiglass or other impermeable barrier

LOCKDOWN
 Stage 1 / Pre-Stage 1