

# CONSIDERATIONS FOR RE-OPENING GREY BRUCE



*A healthier future for all.*

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## CONSIDERATIONS FOR RE-OPENING GREY BRUCE

The following information is to support a methodical and phased-in approach to responsibly lifting restrictions for Grey Bruce residents and our local economy as we move into the post-peak phase of COVID-19. It is based on guidance from the Johns Hopkins Centre for Health Security which outlines public health principles for a phased reopening during COVID-19<sup>1</sup>. This approach is based on specific conditions being met prior to re-opening, and general recommendations that will remain in place throughout the reopening phases. Some longer-term restrictions should be considered to remain in place for the foreseeable future in order to mitigate risk related to travel, gatherings and long-term care facilities. These considerations support **how, not when** we will be able to move into and across phase of re-opening.

Please note that this is a living document that will continue to be updated as new evidence and practices emerge and as the Ontario Government releases additional details for reopening. When referring to this document, please be sure it is the most current version.

### MONITORING INDICATORS TO INFORM LOOSENING OR TIGHTENING OF RESTRICTIONS:

1. Evidence of virus spread/containment, measured by:
  - Any trend (increasing, decreasing or stable) in the local number of new daily positive COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations or mortality
  - Any change in trend (increasing, decreasing or stable) in the local rate of cases that cannot be traced to a source
  - Any change in the doubling rate of COVID-19 cases (number of days for case numbers to double) below a certain threshold (e.g., 14 days)
2. Public Health System Capacity:
  - Capacity for effective public health response in case of virus resurgence, including human resource capacity to ensure >90% of new positive COVID-19 cases and contacts are contacted within 24 hours and given guidance to contain community spread must be maintained.
3. Health System Capacity:
  - Sufficient acute and critical care hospital capacity, including ongoing availability of PPE, ventilators and capacity to continue to admit and treat patients must be maintained.
4. Incidence Tracking Capacity:
  - Sufficient capacity to identify resurgence in cases through ongoing testing of suspected COVID-19 cases, especially in vulnerable populations (i.e., availability of swabs, turn-around time for testing results, ability to courier or deliver swabs to lab) must be maintained.

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<sup>1</sup> Johns Hopkins School of Health Security. (April 17, 2020). [Public Health Principles for a Phased Reopening During COVID-19: Guidance for Governors](#)

## GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

1. The ability to institute and maintain protective measures for protecting all Grey Bruce residents, particularly vulnerable populations.
2. The delivery of strong, clear messaging about the need for all symptomatic residents to self-isolate as directed by Public Health.
3. The ability to institute and maintain enhanced cleaning and disinfection of workplaces, public spaces and recreation facilities.
4. Time between phased re-opening should consider the delay from transmission of the virus to onset of symptoms and potential for critical illness/death – recommendations vary between 2 and 4 weeks for lag between phases of re-opening.
  - Local recommendation would be 3 weeks as daily case increase is relatively small but population density is also low.
5. The ability to institute and maintain population illness surveillance and monitoring during re-opening phases in order to detect cases and anticipate a potential secondary wave of outbreak and infection.
  - If doubling rate increases to 3 or 2 weeks, restrictions that are relaxed will require quick communication to pull back re-opening.

## CATEGORIES FOR CONSIDERATION

The following sections outline three categories of activities to be considered for a phased-in approach to re-opening:

1. **Categories for Initial Consideration:** Activities with low contact intensity and a lower number of contacts.
2. **Categories for Secondary Consideration:** Activities with increased contact intensity. Mitigation strategies for these activities would require increased resources.
3. **Categories for Tertiary Consideration:** Activities with high contact intensity that would require significant modifications to maintain public health safety. To be considered during recovery phase of pandemic when returning to business as usual.

These categories of activities could also be subdivided or moved into different phases as required. The timing and order of activities within each category require close scrutiny. All activities are subject to change based on surveillance and monitoring of transmission patterns and other factors.

*NB: All considerations and possible mitigations will require collaboration and conjunction with municipalities to discuss logistical capacity and any overlooked concerns from local businesses and stakeholders. Local data and emerging scientific knowledge will be continuously monitored to inform the actions taken.*

**CATEGORIES APPROPRIATE FOR INITIAL CONSIDERATION**

This section includes categories that have low contact intensity and a lower number of contacts. Activities with high contact intensity and a high number of contacts require high modification potential. The activities that are re-opened in early phases must be quickly retractable if monitoring or evidence indicate unacceptable risk.

These categories are likely to align with Phase 2, Stage 1 of Ontario’s Framework for Reopening, but may be included in a different stage as Ontario announces additional details about reopening. Contents are intended to provide general information and are not comprehensive.

**Table 1: Categories Appropriate for Initial Consideration**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Contact Intensity</b>	<b>Number of Contacts</b>	<b>Modification Potential</b>	<b>Considerations and Potential Mitigation Strategies</b>
Select outdoor spaces including parks, trails, walking paths, dog parks	Low	Low	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appropriate ventilation, non structured environment with no or minimal high touch areas.</li> <li>• Restrict recreational sport activities and use of playground equipment from park areas</li> <li>• Tips for social distancing on trails (special considerations such as Grotto and Provincial Parks/Camping)</li> <li>• Consider restricting off leash pets</li> <li>• Dog park entrance gates may need attention</li> <li>• Encouraging individuals to avoid touching or petting other dogs</li> <li>• Need for signage to remind public to physically distance</li> <li>• Need to monitor certain spaces that are more likely to see larger crowds</li> </ul>
Golf Courses	Low	Medium to Low	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Physical distancing while engaging in sport</li> <li>• Cups and flags must be above ground and remain lifted as to not allow balls to fall into the cups</li> <li>• Rental of carts is allowed, one cart per person or up to four individuals who all reside in the same home</li> <li>• No common facilities (washrooms, clubhouse, sale of food or beverage)</li> <li>• All individuals must have pre-booked a tee time spaced no less than 20 minutes apart – no walk-ons, no use of putting greens or driving range</li> </ul>

Category	Contact Intensity	Number of Contacts	Modification Potential	Considerations and Potential Mitigation Strategies
Campgrounds	Low	Medium	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reservation must be accepted in advance</li> <li>Only 50% occupancy, no adjacent sites occupied</li> <li>Double sites can't be booked</li> <li>No common facilities (washrooms, laundry, corner store, no firewood sales)</li> <li>No rental of equipment</li> <li>Concerns: facilities with permanent sites would be unable to meet criteria of no adjacent sites occupied; possible solution of alternating weeks of access for neighbouring sites</li> </ul>
Boat Launches and Fishing	Low	Low to Medium	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Saskatchewan has released requirements by which boat launching and use are permitted; all occupants per vessel all must be living in the same household</li> <li>Fishing off the harbour wall remains a concern due to lack of social distancing but proper regulation and monitoring</li> </ul>
Libraries	Low	Low	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Open for book loans but no programing; quarantining books between borrows for at least 24 hours, ask individuals to place items on hold online instead of browsing the library; maintain social distancing in libraries</li> </ul>
Small social gatherings in the home	High to Medium	Medium to Low	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Considerations to be made about more vulnerable vs. less vulnerable populations and recommendations around limiting number of interactions within two week periods or increasing the time between interactions; encouraging social distancing and decreased physical contact during these gatherings</li> <li>Communications re: safer social gatherings. Timing in next three months could encourage outdoor gatherings, other tips for safer socializing</li> </ul>
Small gatherings outside the home	High to Medium	Medium to Low	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consideration to allow greater number of individuals to attend certain events such as funerals</li> </ul>
Hospitals/Dental Care	High	Medium to Low	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consideration for hospitals to begin offering some non-urgent scheduled surgeries</li> <li>Limits to number of individuals scheduled per day with cleaning of waiting area in between scheduled appointments</li> </ul>

Category	Contact Intensity	Number of Contacts	Modification Potential	Considerations and Potential Mitigation Strategies
Retailers *select retailers with the ability to operate with modifications that meet public health and safety requirements (e.g., curbside pick-up or delivery)	Low	Medium	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Businesses that are able to modify operations to meet public health and safety requirements such as operation solely through curbside pick-up or delivery</li> </ul>

## CATEGORIES APPROPRIATE FOR SECONDARY CONSIDERATION

This section includes categories with increased contact intensity. Mitigation strategies would be required to support re-opening these activities safely which would require increased resources (e.g. communication). Universal use of non-medical masks in public settings should be supported given the emerging evidence.

These categories are likely to align with Phase 2, Stage 2 of Ontario’s Framework for Reopening, but may be included in a different stage as Ontario announces additional details about reopening. Contents are intended to provide general information and are not comprehensive.

Table 2: Categories Appropriate for Secondary Consideration

Category	Contact Intensity	Number of Contacts	Modification Potential	Considerations and Potential Mitigation Strategies
Retailers	Low	Medium	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Small stores; limit number of people in the store, reduced hours, increased cleaning/disinfection protocols</li> <li>• Restrictions and modifications would need to be adapted and considered for different types of retailers and size of store</li> </ul>
Hairdresser, Barbers, and Salons	Medium to High	Low	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limiting number of clients and increasing time between appointments to allow for better cleaning, use of masks for stylist and client</li> </ul>
Pools	Medium	Low	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social distancing may be possible to maintain but virus is believed to float on the surface of the water, skimmer and maintenance of pH and chemical balances would be essential</li> </ul>
Gyms and Fitness Studios	Medium	Medium	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scheduled bookings for clients to use gym as well as use of masks and increased cleaning protocols</li> <li>• **Choir practices have been identified as super spreader events which should be considered with respect to aerobic activities that increase rate and depth of respiration</li> </ul>
Restaurants (Sit Down)	Medium	Medium	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Decreased capacity to increase distancing during meals; masks for servers and kitchen staff, increased cleaning protocols</li> <li>• Considerations: no high velocity fans or AC units, larger outdoor seating arrangements to allow further distancing, increased frequency of cleaning high touch surfaces</li> </ul>
Beaches	Low to Medium	High	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some direction from Southern States who are opening beaches May 1st requiring municipal regulation of keeping groups at the beach below 10 people with a minimum of 6 feet between groups</li> </ul>



Category	Contact Intensity	Number of Contacts	Modification Potential	Considerations and Potential Mitigation Strategies
Playgrounds, Skate parks, Athletic Fields, etc.	Medium	Medium	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Currently no clear guidance – research indicating that virus may be able to survive on surfaces for several days. May need increased cleaning or maintenance on some areas</li> </ul>
Religious and Spiritual Gatherings	Medium to High	High	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mitigations will need to be discussed regarding Amish and Mennonite communities and spiritual gatherings; continued engagement needed from this community as well as other faith based leaders and stakeholders</li> <li>• Amish take part in home worship which would result in large spiritual gatherings within the home; options for outside worship?</li> <li>• Mennonite worship in a meetinghouse and community building, not in homes; considerations for sub-communities sharing these spaces</li> </ul>

**CATEGORIES APPROPRIATE FOR TERTIARY CONSIDERATION**

This section includes categories that would be up for consideration during the recovery phase of the pandemic when we are returning to business as usual. The high number of contacts and required modifications to maintain public health would significantly impact the financial profit or of such companies or effectiveness of such services.

These categories are likely to align with Phase 2, Stage 3 of Ontario’s Framework for Reopening, but may be included in a different stage as Ontario announces additional details about reopening. Contents are intended to provide general information and are not comprehensive.

**Table 3: Categories Appropriate for Tertiary Consideration**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Contact Intensity</b>	<b>Number of Contacts</b>	<b>Modification Potential</b>	<b>Considerations and Potential Mitigation Strategies</b>
Bars	High	High	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Limits on the number of people in the bar at any one time should be considered.</li> <li>Increased bathroom cleaning/disinfection protocols</li> </ul>
Movie Theatres	Medium	High	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Potential to increase social distancing by pre-booking seats and ensuring that at least 2 seats are between patrons, or groupings by family with larger spaces between groups</li> </ul>
Summer Camps	High	High	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Variety of recommendations being made, if case counts decrease, some jurisdictions claiming some camps may be able to run in late July and August – if so resources will be required for any local camps including how to screen for children and families that are more vulnerable and would not be able to attend despite easing restrictions</li> </ul>
Schools and Daycare	High	Medium to High	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provincial decision – may need some local considerations around solutions for children and families who are at increased risk of complications from COVID and therefore can’t send children to school</li> </ul>
Contact School Sports	High	Medium to High	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Decisions to be made by schools with potential support and direction from public health</li> </ul>
Low Contact School Sports	Low	Medium	High	