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Most COVID-19 Workplace Requirements No Longer in Force As of March 21, 2022

March 18, 2022

On March 1, 2022, all public health regions in Ontario moved to the Roadmap Exit Step under O. Reg 364/20 to the *Reopening Ontario Act*. Effective March 21, 2022 most of the remaining COVID-19 workplace requirements under this last step of the reopening plan are revoked. Specifically:

- Masks are no longer required in the indoor area of a business, except for specific workplaces such as
 retirement homes, hospitals, health care clinics, residential care facilities, congregate care facilities,
 shelters, long-term care home, and on public transit.
- COVID-19 safety plans are no longer required.
- COVID-19 screening of employees and patrons is no longer required.

A business is still required to comply with any advice, recommendation or instructions issued by its local public health official prior to February 25, 2022 that relates to any of the above, **except** for any advice, recommendations or instructions related to vaccination policies. As such, a business is no longer required to have a vaccination policy, unless required under an existing or future direction or order from the Chief Medical Officer of Health (CMOH). Further, any directive, policy or guidance issued to a long-term care home by the CHOH or Ministry of Long-Term Care continues to apply despite these amendments.

In addition, a business must continue to operate in accordance with the *Occupational Health and Safety Act* and, as such, must take proactive measures to address workplace health and safety risks, including if there is a specific risk related to COVID-19 (or any other infectious disease).

For assistance with any COVID-19 related matter, contact your Sherrard Kuzz LLP lawyer, or any member of the Sherrard Kuzz team at info@sherrardkuzz.com. We'll respond promptly.

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