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Subject: FW: News Release: MPP Walker announces Step One of Roadmap to Reopen starts on June 11
Date: June 7, 2021 3:46:02 PM
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Please see below.

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From: Walker, Bill <bill.walker@pc.ola.org>
Sent: June 7, 2021 3:33 PM
To: Fell, Chris <chris.fell@pc.ola.org>
Subject: News Release: MPP Walker announces Step One of Roadmap to Reopen starts on June 11



For Immediate Release

June 7, 2021

MPP Walker announces Step One of Roadmap to Reopen starts on June 11

OWEN SOUND - Based on the provincewide vaccination rate and continuing improvements in key public health and health system indicators, the Ontario government, in consultation with the Chief Medical Officer of Health, will move the province into Step One of its [Roadmap to Reopen](#) at 12:01 a.m. on Friday, June 11, 2021.

“Thanks to the ongoing success of Team Ontario’s vaccine rollout and the ongoing improvements in public health trends, we are able to enter step one of the Roadmap and begin to safely and cautiously lift restrictions,” said Premier Doug Ford. “The only reason we’re able to do so is because of the enormous sacrifices made by individuals, families and communities across Ontario. As we begin to enjoy the benefits of the first step in our roadmap like meeting friends on a patio or visiting your favourite local store, please do so safely by continuing to follow all public health guidelines.”

In order to safely enter Step One of the Roadmap to Reopen, Ontario needed to have vaccinated 60 per cent of adults with at least one dose for two weeks or longer, ensuring the first dose offers a strong level of protection against COVID-19. As of June 6, 2021 at 8:00 p.m., 72 per cent of the 18+ population in Ontario had received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine with over 10 million doses now having been administered.

“I’m happy to see our province moving into Step One of our Roadmap to Reopen. Thank you to all the residents of Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound for their sacrifices throughout this pandemic, and to Dr. Arra and the team at Grey Bruce Public Health for their leadership and efforts,” said Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound MPP Bill Walker. “We have made a lot of progress and there still is work to be done. I encourage everybody to continue to be vigilant and continue following public health regulations.”

Before entering Step One, the province also needed to see continued improvement in key public health and health system indicators. During the period of May 25 to 31, 2021, the provincial case rate decreased by 35.1 per cent. As of June 6, the number of patients with COVID-19 in ICUs is 497, including 31 patients from Manitoba, as compared to 687 two weeks ago. The province’s situation is currently exceeding the best-case scenario presented in [recent modelling](#), which indicated the province would reach below 1,000 new daily infections by June 30, 2021. The province expects these trends to continue over the coming days before entering Step One.

“Thanks to the tremendous efforts of every Ontarian, beginning June 11 we will be able to cautiously lift public health measures in the settings we know are safest,” said Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health. “While this is exciting news, as we move to enter Step One of Ontario’s Roadmap it remains critical that all Ontarians continue to follow public health advice and roll up their sleeves to receive the vaccine.”

Step One of the Roadmap focuses on the resumption of more outdoor activities with smaller crowds where risk of transmission is lower. It will also permit more limited indoor settings to be open, all with restrictions in place. In consultation with the Chief Medical Officer of Health, the Ontario government has amended Step One to also permit indoor religious services, rites and ceremonies, including wedding and funeral services limited to 15 per cent capacity.

Step One of the Roadmap to Reopen includes but is not limited to:

- Outdoor social gatherings and organized public events with up to 10 people;
- Outdoor religious services, rites, or ceremonies, including wedding services and funeral services, capped at the number of people that can maintain a physical distance of two metres;
- Indoor religious services, rites, or ceremonies, including wedding services and funeral services permitted at up to 15 per cent capacity of the particular room;
- Non-essential retail permitted at 15 per cent capacity, with no restrictions on the goods that can be sold;
- Essential and other select retail permitted at 25 per cent capacity, with no restrictions on the goods that can be sold;
- Outdoor dining with up to four people per table, with exceptions for larger households;
- Outdoor fitness classes, outdoor groups in personal training and outdoor individual/team sport training to be permitted with up to 10 people, among other restrictions;
- Day camps for children permitted to operate in a manner consistent with the safety guidelines for COVID-19 produced by the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health;
- Overnight camping at campgrounds and campsites, including Ontario Parks, and short-term rentals;
- Concert venues, theatres and cinemas may open outdoors for the purpose of rehearsing or performing a recorded or broadcasted concert, artistic event, theatrical performance or other performance with no more than 10 performers, among other restrictions;

- Outdoor horse racing tracks and motor speedways permitted to operate without spectators; and
- Outdoor attractions such as zoos, landmarks, historic sites, botanical gardens with capacity and other restrictions.

In addition, to support students who have worked incredibly hard throughout the pandemic, the government is enabling school boards for public and private elementary and high schools to invite students back for brief outdoor end-of-year celebration. Any in-person school year celebrations will need to meet specific [requirements](#).

The province will remain in Step One for at least 21 days to evaluate any impacts on key public health and health system indicators. If at the end of the 21 days the province has vaccinated 70 per cent of adults with one dose and 20 per cent of adults with two doses and there are continued improvements in other key public health and health system indicators, the province will move to Step Two of the Roadmap.

All public health and workplace safety measures currently in place will remain in effect until the province moves to Step One on June 11, 2021 at 12:01 a.m. During this time, the government will continue to work with stakeholders on their reopening plans, including targeted measures for specific sectors, institutions and other settings to ensure that they have full awareness of when they can begin to safely reopen and how.

“While we have reached the point where we can safely move into Step One, now is not the time to get complacent,” said Dr. David Williams, Chief Medical Officer of Health. “We must all remain vigilant, as the fight against COVID-19 is not over. By continuing to follow public health advice and measures we can continue to reduce transmission, safeguard health system capacity and save lives.”

Quick Facts

- Public health and workplace safety measures will continue to apply in Step One, including maintaining physical distance, capacity limits and wearing face coverings in indoor spaces and whenever physical distancing is a challenge.
- On [June 2, 2021](#), Ontario’s Stay-at-Home order was allowed to expire, with most other public health and workplace safety measures being maintained provincially until Ontario enters Step One of the Roadmap to Reopen.
- The Ontario government has released the [Roadmap to Reopen](#), a three-step plan to safely and cautiously reopen the province and gradually lift public health measures based on the provincially vaccination rate and improvements in key public health and health care indicators.
- On [May 28, 2021](#), the Ontario government announced it was accelerating the rollout to book second dose vaccine appointments starting with individuals aged 80 and over, beginning on May 31, 2021. On [June 7, 2021](#), individuals turning ages 70 and over in 2021, as well as individuals who received their first dose of an mRNA vaccine on or before April 18, 2021, will be eligible to schedule an appointment to receive their second dose of a COVID-19 vaccine through the provincial booking system. If there is sufficient vaccine supply, it is anticipated that the majority of Ontario residents who choose to receive the vaccine will be able to be fully vaccinated by the end of the summer.

Additional Resources

- [Ontario Releases Three-Step Roadmap to Safely Reopen the Province](#)
- [Remote Learning to Continue across Ontario for the Remainder of School Year](#)
- [Ontario Maintains COVID-19 Restrictions as Stay-at-Home Order is Set to Expire](#)
- [Ontario Accelerates Rollout of Second Shots Targeting a Two-Dose Summer](#)
- Visit Ontario’s [COVID-19 communications resources web page](#) for resources in multiple languages to

help local communication efforts.

- Visit Ontario's [website](#) to find out if you are eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccine at this time.
- For up-to-date information on the province's vaccine rollout and instructions on how to book an appointment, visit Ontario's [vaccine webpage](#).
- Visit Ontario's COVID-19 information [website](#) to learn more about how the province continues to protect the people of Ontario from the virus.
- For public inquiries call ServiceOntario, INFOline at 1-866-532-3161 (Toll-free in Ontario only).

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