



Membership Advisory

Province Announces Plan to Phase Out Public Health Measures

On February 8, 2022, the Government of Alberta [announced](#) its plan to phase out public health measures in three stages as pressure on Alberta's healthcare system eases. Step 1 takes effect on February 9, and Step 2 will take effect on March 1, provided that hospitalizations are trending downwards.

In Step 1, the following changes come into effect:

- The Restrictions Exemption Program (REP) is removed, along with most associated restrictions.
- Capacity limits for locations not covered under the REP are removed.
- For indoor entertainment, event, and recreation facilities:
 - Capacity is limited to 50% if the facility has fire occupancy load over 1,000, and limited to 500 attendees if occupancy is between 500 and 1,000. Capacity limits are removed for facilities with fire occupancy load under 500.
 - No interactive activities are permitted (for example: dancing, darts, billiards).
 - Food and drink consumption in seated audience settings or during intermissions can resume.

In addition, as of February 14, mandatory masking requirements are removed for children 12 and under in all settings, and for children and youth in schools for any age.

No change has been made to requirements for outdoor entertainment, event, and recreation facilities, which have no capacity restrictions but which must maintain 2-metres distancing between households or two close contacts for those living alone.

Please refer to the Government of Alberta's [website](#) for full details on the new guidance for Step 1 and later phases, and to [Alberta Health Services](#) for the latest information about COVID-19.

The Alberta Museums Association (AMA) recognizes that these changes to public health restrictions will affect members of the museum community in unique ways. The AMA continues to advocate on behalf of our membership regarding the significant pressures the museum sector has faced during the COVID-19 pandemic, and the support that Alberta institutions need to ensure a safe and successful transition as restrictions are eased.

As you plan for changes to your operations under this new guidance, the following resources are available to support you to clearly communicate the safety protocols in place at your museum:

- **Digital Health & Safety Signage Toolkit**
 - As restrictions ease, update the instructional and wayfinding signage at your museum with this free [digital Health & Safety Signage toolkit](#). This digital toolkit includes a variety of print-ready messages to suit the different needs of your organization, and additional sets of customizable templates that can be edited and updated as circumstances change.
 - This free download also includes two resource guides relating to adjusting operations and programming as the pandemic response evolves. Learn more about the guides [here](#).
- **Resources for Managing Conflict**
 - The AMA has prepared a brief guide to de-escalation strategies, [available here](#).
 - The AMA has secured a limited number of spaces for AMA members in two online training courses from [ARETE](#), *COVID-19 Customer Conflict Management Training* and *Workplace Violence Prevention and De-escalation Training*. Offered at no cost through the [Government of Alberta](#), ARETE's online training gives employees the confidence and skills to safely and professionally communicate guidelines in place at their organization. [Register here](#) to receive your complimentary access code.
- **Vaccination Policies for Nonprofit Employers Toolkit**
 - In [this toolkit](#) from IntegralOrg, nonprofit employers will find a Q & A document that addresses from a legal perspective the most common questions asked by nonprofit employers about vaccinations, and a webinar recording that provides legal perspectives on the occupational health and safety obligations of nonprofit employers with regards to COVID-19.

These resources and more can be found on the AMA's [COVID-19 Advisory](#) webpage. In addition, the AMA Advisory Services team [is available](#) to support you to address the specific challenges you may encounter as your organization adjusts to best respond to the needs of your museum and community.

Over the past two years, Alberta's museum community has demonstrated its resilience and determination in meeting the challenges of an evolving public health emergency. As we look forward, we encourage you to continue engaging with your elected officials at all levels to share the needs of your museum and the ways in which our sector can contribute to the health and vibrancy of our communities going forward.

The AMA is committed to working on behalf of Alberta's museum community to develop and share additional resources that support our sector to welcome the public to our sites while safeguarding the health and well-being of staff, visitors, and the community. As our sector prepares to operate under the new guidance, the AMA is available to answer any questions you may have. Please reach out to us at 780.424.2626 or advisory@museums.ab.ca.