

Indoor Public Spaces

The directive defines “Enclosed Public Space” to mean **indoor public spaces accessed by the public**. This includes, but is not limited to:

- restaurants, cafés, cafeterias, banquet halls
- retail establishments and shopping malls
- churches, mosques, synagogues, temples, or other places of worship
- **libraries, museums, art galleries, recreational facilities, bingo halls, community centres and halls, cinemas, theatres, concert venues, special event venues, convention centers, or other similar entertainment, cultural, or leisure facilities**
- sports facilities, sports clubs, gyms, yoga studios, dance studios, and stadiums
- common areas of hotels, motels, or short-term rental premises such as lobbies, elevators, meeting rooms, rest rooms, laundry rooms, gyms, and kitchens
- public and private transportation including taxis and rideshare services
- common areas of premises under the control of a regulated health professional under the *Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991*, S.O. 1991, c. 18, as amended, such as waiting rooms
- common areas of hospitals and independent health facilities such as lobbies, food courts and retail establishments
- spas, hair salons, barbers, nail salons, and other personal service settings that are subject to health and safety protocols provided by the Province of Ontario during the provincial emergency
- municipal public spaces

Note: Offices not open to the public including professional offices where clients receive services not open to public (e.g. lawyer, accountant) **are NOT considered an “Enclosed Public Space”**.

In regards to face shields:

A face shield is not a substitute for wearing a mask/face covering as it does not filter respiratory droplets. A face shield may provide additional protection for the wearer against droplets expelled from another person, however these droplets may still be inhaled around the shield. Respiratory droplets expelled by the wearer may escape around the sides of the face shield, which therefore provides less protection to others. If you choose to wear a face shield, we recommend - if possible - to wear it in addition to a properly fitted masks/face coverings.

A face shield would not be considered an equal substitute for a mask/face covering as it does not provide filtering capacity. However, the World Health Organization (WHO) supports the use of face shields as a “better than nothing” alternative to masks/face coverings if there is a shortage of masks/face coverings for populations who are not able to properly wear masks/face coverings, such as individuals with a respiratory condition that prevents them from wearing a mask/face covering. The WHO makes note that face

shields are inferior to masks/face coverings at preventing the spread of an infection through droplets and at a minimum should extend below the chin and cover the sides of the face.

Please find attached:

- July 9, 2020 - Media release, Re: Directive for Masks/Face Coverings in Enclosed Public Spaces in Effect July 14th;
- RCDHU COVID-19 Directive for Masks/Face Coverings;
- COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions, Re: Directive for Masks/Face Coverings; and
- COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions - Masks/Face Coverings.

RCDHU Communications