

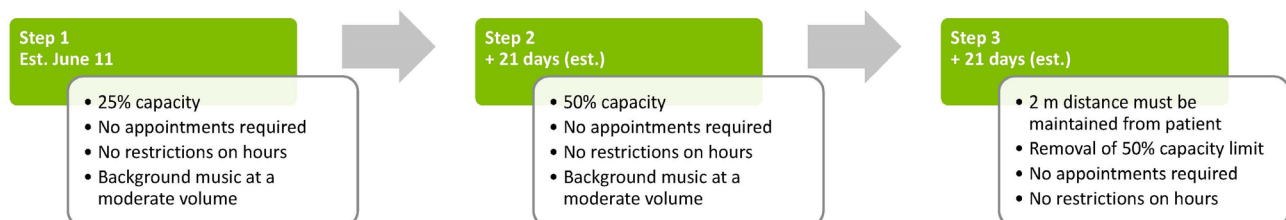
COVID-19 Update #37

July 15, 2021 – 4:30 pm

Dear Registrant,

The Provincial government has announced that [Step 3](#) of the Ontario Reopening Roadmap will begin on Friday, July 16, 2021, at 12:01 a.m.

How does this impact opticians?



**Note: as per provincial guidance, ensure that any music played at the place of business is not at a decibel level that exceeds the level at which normal conversation is possible.*

Under Step 3, stores are no longer subject to a 50% capacity limit. Instead, they must limit capacity to permit at least 2 meters of physical distance and can continue to operate without appointments and without restrictions on hours. As the province permits more businesses to open and services to resume, however, this is a reminder that as healthcare professionals, opticians must continue to adhere to a number of important public health guidelines.

Capacity Limits

Per provincial regulation, capacity must be limited to permit members of the public to maintain a physical distance of at least two metres from every other person in the business or facility. Opticians should also consider whether to implement other physical distancing measures in the workplace, as set out in the College's [Return to Practice Guidelines](#).

Patient Screening

Opticians must continue to screen all patients in accordance with Ministry guidelines, regardless of the optician's or the patient's vaccination status. For more information please visit our [FAQ](#) page, or view the [COVID-19 Patient Screening Guidance Document](#) issued by the Ministry of Health.

If a patient answers "yes" to one or more screening questions, the optician may still provide in person services as long as they wear appropriate personal protective equipment, as set out in the [Ministry of Health Guidelines](#) for the health sector. Opticians should also consider whether the patient is entitled to any accommodation under the Human Rights Code or the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act.



Masks

Masks continue to be required for opticians, staff, patients, and visitors to the dispensary. Under the [Ministry of Health Guidelines](#) health professionals must wear a surgical mask at all times when working within 2 metres of a patient. All other persons must wear a non-medical mask or face covering at all times. Exemptions continue to apply to eligible individuals.

Cleaning and Disinfecting

Opticians must continue to adhere to the [Standards of Practice](#) and [Return to Practice Guidelines](#) on safety and infection control. This includes a requirement to both clean and disinfect frames and lenses before and after they have been handled or tried on by a patient or customer. Cleaning refers to the process of removing dirt, grease, or other organic material from the surface of the object. Disinfection is the process of destroying or inactivating bacteria and viruses from surfaces.

Please continue to check our [FAQ](#) page for regular updates.

Kind regards,

Fazal and the COO Team