

October 25, 2021

To: All owners/operators of food premises, including bars, restaurants, banquet halls, wineries, or breweries, including ones where only beverages are served, within the Niagara Regional Area

**Re: Application of the Section 22 Order in the Plan to Reopen Ontario**

On July 14, I wrote to you regarding [Niagara's section 22 order](#) in relation to dining and advised that I was suspending the provision that there is no longer an expectation that your business is collecting an attestation that parties are from the same household. Parties at a table, at a table indoors or outdoors, may be composed of anyone. In recognition of the province's change to capacity limits beginning October 25:

1. I am also suspending enforcement of section 8 – ensure that patrons seated at different tables are separated by a distance of at least two metres, or plexiglass or some other impermeable barrier for all indoor dining spaces. Maximizing distance between tables remains strongly encouraged, but voluntary.
2. Public Health will continue to enforce a requirement for two metres distance or barriers for outdoor dining spaces since clients dining outdoor are exempt from vaccine certification requirements.

While these few limitations have now been lifted, I emphasize that **all other provisions of the order remain in place**, and remain necessary to protect your patrons and your employees. We need to remain vigilant in order to enable reopening to be sustained and permanent.

This vigilance applies not only to the remaining provisions of the section 22 order, but also to requirements of the Province under the *Reopening Ontario Act*. It is essential that these and other Provincial requirements are followed to keep COVID-19 under control and to avoid another round of restrictions on businesses.

Finally, as vaccination is key to definitively controlling the pandemic in Niagara, we encourage all businesses to create a [workplace vaccine policy](#) for employees in order to help keep your employees and customers safe, as well as keep your business open.

We wish you success in your ongoing recovery from recent lockdowns, and hope with renewed diligence around requirements of our order and the *Reopening Ontario Act*, there will not be another interruption to your business during this pandemic.

Further COVID-19 guidance can be accessed [on Niagara Region Public Health's website](#). Business that have questions are invited to call the COVID-19 Info-Line at 905-688-8248 press 7, then press 3 or toll-free at 1-888-505-6074.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Hirji', with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

**M. Mustafa Hirji**, MD MPH FRCPC  
Medical Officer of Health /Commissioner (Acting)