



## Province announces Stage 3 of Ontario's reopening plan

Earlier today, the provincial government announced that **as of Friday, July 17**, much of Ontario will be allowed to proceed to Stage 3 of the province's reopening plan. Regions allowed to reopen on Friday include:

- Algoma Public Health
- Brant County Health Unit
- Chatham-Kent Public Health
- Eastern Ontario Health Unit
- Grey Bruce Health Unit
- Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit
- Hastings Prince Edward Public Health
- Huron Perth Public Health
- Kingston, Frontenac and Lennox & Addington Public Health
- Leeds Grenville & Lanark District Health Unit
- Middlesex-London Health Unit
- North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit
- Northwestern Health Unit
- Ottawa Public Health
- Peterborough Public Health
- Porcupine Health Unit
- Public Health Sudbury & Districts
- Region of Waterloo Public Health and Emergency Services
- Renfrew County and District Health Unit
- Simcoe-Muskoka District Health Unit
- Southwestern Public Health
- Thunder Bay District Health Unit
- Timiskaming Health Unit
- Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health

Other regions will move into Stage 3 at a later date (not yet specified), when the COVID-19 caseload in those areas is deemed to be low enough to justify fewer restrictions. Areas that are to remain in Stage 2 for now include:

- Durham Region Health Department
- Haldimand-Norfolk Health Unit
- Halton Region Public Health
- Hamilton Public Health Services
- Lambton Public Health
- Niagara Region Public Health
- Peel Public Health
- Toronto Public Health
- Windsor-Essex County Health Unit
- York Region Public Health

For a full overview of Stage 3, visit the [province's website](#).

### **What does this mean for veterinary clinics?**

Not much will change for veterinary clinics. Stage 3 will see remaining workplaces and community spaces reopen, while gradually lifting restrictions on the size of public gatherings, etc. Veterinary practices may choose to begin seeing more clients with their animals in the clinic. However, practice owners are still responsible for ensuring the health and safety of their staff, clients and patients by mitigating the risk of exposure to COVID-19. The use of masks, protective shields and social distancing measures are strongly recommended to continue until further notice.

For more information on reopening recommendations, see [OVMA's Guide to Reopening Veterinary Medicine in Ontario](#) and the webinar on [Strategies for Dealing with Post-COVID Clients, Finances and Production](#).



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