Frequently Asked Questions for Meeting and Event Spaces (Step 3)

The following is a compilation of answers to frequently asked questions. However, we strongly encourage the person(s) responsible for a business or place that is open to read O. Regulation 364/20 (FR) for themselves.

1) Is a safety plan still needed?
   - Every business that is open requires a safety plan [Schedule 1, section 3.3]

2) Do patrons still have to be screened?
   - For meeting/event spaces, patrons must be actively screened [Schedule 1, section 4 (1)7.]. Screening is still required if the establishment is operating as a food/drink establishment or a food/drink establishment with dance facilities [Schedule 2, section 1, (1)4.]
   - Contact tracing must also be completed.

3) Are there any requirements for cleaning/sanitizing surfaces?
   - Any washrooms, change rooms, or other similar amenities available to the public must be cleaned and disinfected as often as necessary to maintain sanitary condition [Schedule 1, section 7].

4) Is plexiglass still required for bars? Is plexiglass still required for front?
   - Plexiglass was never required but does offer additional protection for staff. Staff providing service to unmasked patrons, in an indoor setting, must wear PPE (procedural/surgical mask and googles or face shield).

5) Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) has released guidelines for masking and physical distancing, how does this apply to the Ontario Reopening Framework?
   - The guidance released by PHAC has no legal bearing in Ontario. The regulations (364/20) are what Ontarians must adhere to.

6) For singers/performers do they need a barrier if they are 2 metres away from patrons?
   - The performers must maintain a physical distance of at least 2 metres from patrons or be separated by patrons by plexiglass/some other impermeable barrier [Schedule 1, section 6].

7) Is physical distancing required for line ups to receive a drink at the bar?
   - For lines indoors, patrons must maintain physical distance of at least 2 metres and wear a mask/face covering [Schedule 1, section 3.2 (2)].

8) Is masking still required for indoor spaces, including for the bride and groom during the ceremony?
• Every person must wear a mask or face covering while indoors of a business or organization [Schedule 1 section 3.1 (1)]. Thus, the bride and groom must wear their mask while indoors except for when they briefly remove their masks to kiss during the ceremony.

9) Are there restrictions regarding food services?
• Buffets and cocktail service are now permitted, masks can be briefly removed to consume food and drink.
• For buffets, patrons can serve themselves. Guidance can be found on our website: https://www.kflaph.ca/en/healthy-living/resources/Infection-Prevention-and-Control/Coronavirus/COVID-19-Signage-PDFs/Guidance-for-Buffet-Dining.pdf

10) Are there different restrictions on capacity?
• A meeting and event space with no dancing has the lesser amount of 50% capacity or 1,000 persons (indoors), or 75% capacity of 5000 people (outdoors). [Schedule 1, section 4(1)(1) and (3)].
• If there is dancing at the event, establishments must fall under food/drink establishment with dance facilities, which have an indoor capacity of 25% or 250 persons, whichever is less [Schedule 2, section 2 (1)1.] or an outdoor capacity of 75% or 5,000 persons, whichever is less [Schedule 2, section 2 (1)2.].
• It should be noted that while most public health units in the Eastern Region are allowing dancing to occur at wedding receptions, some (e.g., Hastings Prince Edward) are not, as it is not specifically included in the regulations [Schedule 3, section 5]. If you own a meeting or event space located outside of the KFL&A region, please check with the local health unit for their interpretation of the regulation. KFL&A Public Health’s interpretation may change if direction from the Ministry is received.
• In terms of capacity for venues with numerous rooms, schedule 1, section 4(1)(2) speaks to the need to ensure a particular room never exceeds 50% (25% if there’s dancing) during the event. In short, while numerous rooms would allow a larger capacity number, each room will need to be supervised to ensure that the capacity of each room remains at 50%/25% with dancing or lower during the event.

11) Do masks remain on while dancing indoors?
• Yes, as referenced in question 4, masks are required indoors.
• As a note, physical distancing while dancing is not required [Schedule 2, section 2 (4)].

12) Do patrons still need to be seated to eat/drink?
• Patrons no longer need to be seated to eat and drink.
• Guests can mingle; however, patrons must ensure that physical distancing of at least 2 meters is maintained [Schedule 1, section 3.1 (4)].

13) Are there limits on the number of guests per table?
• There are no limits to the number of guests per table.
14) Will the restrictions for same households sitting together remain or can head tables and guests from other households sit together?

- The legislation permits non-household members to sit together. Guests that are seated at the same table do not have to maintain physical distancing [Schedule 2, section 1 (8); Schedule 2, section 2(5)]. From a risk-management perspective, keeping separate households physically distanced is encouraged.

- Patrons seated at different tables must be separated by at least 2 metres or plexiglass/some other impermeable barrier [Schedule 2, section 1 (1)2.; Schedule 2, section 2 (1)(3).]