Human Resources Legislative Update

Ontario to Ease Public Health Measures on January 31, 2022

Date: January 21, 2022

On January 20, 2022, the Ontario government announced a gradual easing of public health measures, beginning on January 31, 2022.

Effective on that date, the new measures will include:

- social gathering limits increased to 10 people indoors and 25 people outdoors.
- capacity limits increased to (or maintained at) 50% in indoor public settings, including
    - restaurants, bars and other food or drink establishments without dance facilities
    - retailers (including grocery stores and pharmacies)
    - shopping malls
    - non-spectator areas of sports and recreational fitness facilities, including gyms
    - cinemas
    - meeting and event spaces
    - recreational amenities and amusement parks, including water parks
    - museums, galleries, aquariums, zoos and similar attractions
    - casinos, bingo halls and other gaming establishments, and
    - religious services, rites, or ceremonies.

Spectator areas of facilities such as sporting events, concert venues and theatres will be permitted to operate at 50% seated capacity or 500 people, whichever is less.

At the time of writing, the regulatory amendment giving effect to these changes has not yet been published.

Restrictions will again be further eased on February 21 and March 14, 2022.

Enhanced proof of vaccination and other requirements will continue to apply in applicable settings.