

Human Resources Legislative Update

Further Easing of Ontario Public Health Restrictions Coming March 21, 2022

Date: March 16, 2022

On March 11, 2022, the Ontario government filed [O. Reg. 213/22](#) which amends [O. Reg. 364/20](#): Rules for Areas at Step 3 and at the Roadmap Exit Step made under the [Reopening Ontario \(A Flexible Response to COVID-19\) Act, 2020](#). O. Reg. 213/22 gives effect to the further reduction of public health restrictions in force as of March 21, 2022 (as discussed in our *FTR* Nows of [March 9, 2022](#) and [March 11, 2022](#)).

Changes to the Roadmap Exit Step

All public health units in Ontario are currently in the Roadmap Exit Step. Effective March 21, 2022, O. Reg. 213/22 amends the Roadmap Exit Step as follows:

- Removes the requirement for businesses and organizations to comply with any advice, recommendations or instructions of the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health on screening individuals.
- Removes the mandatory masking requirement, except in specific locations which include among others:
 - public transit
 - hospitals and health care clinics
 - long-term care and retirement homes
 - specified residential care facilities and congregate care settings
 - laboratories and specimen collection centres, and
 - homeless shelters.
- Removes the requirement to have a safety plan in place.
- Removes specific rules at the Roadmap Exit Step regarding cannabis retail stores, camps for children, and schools and private schools (Schedule 5).

Changes to the Rules for Areas at Step 3

Effective March 21, 2022, O. Reg. 213/22 also amends the Rules for Areas at Step 3 in the following ways:

- Removes the general compliance rules, which include specific rules on masking, physical distancing and screening.
- Removes the proof of vaccination requirements.
- Removes the rules relating to capacity limits.
- Removes the specific rules at Step 3 (Schedule 2) and the rules regarding organized public events and certain gatherings at Step 3 (Schedule 3).

No public health units are currently in the Rules for Areas at Step 3 stage.