

Ministry of Health

Qs and As for Medical Officers of Health and Municipal Chief Administrative Officers and Clerks — Opening Some Outdoor Recreational Amenities

Ontario amended O. Reg. 104/20: Emergency Order Under Subsection 7.0.2 (4) of the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act* — Closure of Outdoor Recreational Amenities to permit the opening of some outdoor recreational amenities starting May 19, 2020.

Q. What amenities can be opened?

A. The following outdoor recreational amenities can be opened as early as May 19, 2020:

- Outdoor sports facilities and multi-use fields (including baseball diamonds, soccer fields, and frisbee golf locations, tennis, platform tennis, table tennis and pickleball courts, basketball courts, BMX parks, and skate parks)
- Off-leash dog areas
- Outdoor picnic sites, benches and shelters in park and recreational areas

Individuals using these amenities, except for members of the same household, are required to maintain a physical distance of at least two metres or six feet.

Municipalities should only open these amenities when it is safe to do so.

Q. What, if any, amenities are required to remain closed?

A. At this time, the following outdoor amenities will remain closed:

- Playgrounds, play structures and equipment;
- Fitness equipment;
- Public swimming pools, splash pads and similar outdoor water facilities; and
- Communal facilities intended to be used by persons using outdoor sports amenities, except to the extent they provide access to a washroom or a portion of the facility that used to provide first aid in accordance with O. Reg. 82/20 made under the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act*- Closure of Places of Non-Essential Businesses.

Q. Should washrooms be opened?

A. A municipality may choose to open washrooms in some or all of their outdoor amenities (i.e., parks).

If opened, individuals should physically distance, limit contact with surfaces as much as possible and wash their hands.

Q. Can the newly opened amenities be used to play sports?

A. Individuals may use outdoor sports facilities and multi-use fields for non-team sports, such as walking, running, biking, skateboarding, frisbee, kicking a ball, and low contact racquet sports like tennis, badminton, pickleball and ping pong.

Individuals who use the opened amenities for this purpose are required to physically distance unless they are members of the same household.

Individuals are not permitted to play team sports, such as soccer or baseball, even on fields intended for this purpose unless they are members of the same household.

Q. Can people use the newly opened amenities for gatherings and events?

As per O. Reg. 52/20: Emergency Order Under Subsection 7.0.2 (4) of the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act – Organized Public Events, Certain Gatherings, individuals are not permitted to have gatherings or events with more than five people.

Individuals using the newly opened amenities are required to physically distance unless they are members of the same household.

Q. How can individuals stay safe while using outdoor recreational amenities?

A. Everyone using these outdoor recreational amenities is required to physically distance from anyone who is not in their household. This means staying 2 metres or 6 feet away from other people.

If an individual arrives at an amenity, such as an off-leash dog area, sports field or picnic area, that is crowded, they should wait until there is enough space to physically distance or return at another time.

Individuals should also use hand sanitizer to clean your hands while out, wash your hands as soon as you get home, and stay home if ill.