

**From:** CASLPO <caslpo@caslpo.com>

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**Subject:** Update - Ontario Ministry of Health COVID-19 Changes



College of Audiologists and  
Speech-Language Pathologists of Ontario  
Ordre des audiologistes et  
des orthophonistes de l'Ontario

March 15 2022

**To:** All CASLPO Registrants (Please share with CASLPO Colleagues)

On March 9, 2022, the Ontario Ministry of Health released information detailing significant changes to COVID-19 Directives effective March 14, March 21, and April 27, 2022.

The released information indicates that, *"a process is underway to gradually revoke all Chief Medical Officer of Health (CMOH) Directives and instructions by the end of April. In all cases, Directives will be replaced with operational guidance or recommendations from the CMOH and relevant ministry. **As Directives are revoked, individual organizations will continue to have the authority to keep requirements in place.**"*

See Ministry of Health document pages 5 & 6: [Media Technical Briefing – Living with and Managing Covid-19](#) (March 8, 2022)

**The Media Technical Briefing outlines the following changes:**

**Effective March 14:**

- Directive #6 is revoked: Mandatory vaccination policies end

**CASLPO Practice Advice:**

Organizations may retain their own vaccination policies. Your workplace may choose to continue asking patients and staff about their vaccination status and may require staff to be vaccinated.

**Effective March 21:**

- Most masking mandates are removed, including in schools
- **Masking requirements still in effect** for health care settings including private practices, Long Term Care,

- retirement homes, hospitals and other community-based health care settings
- Lifting of daily on-site COVID-19 screenings and cohorting in schools
- COVID-19 screening requirements removed for businesses

#### **CASLPO Practice Advice:**

Follow the requirements of your workplace, school board and local Public Health Unit. School board policies and procedures may differ around masking and daily COVID-19 screening of students.

Follow CASLPO's [Infection and Prevention Control Standards](#). This includes continuing to conduct a [Point of Care Risk Assessment](#) (PCRA) before any intervention with students. Use COVID-19 screening questions as part of your PCRA. Rely on your PCRA and professional judgement to make decisions around continued use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) measures.

Organizations, such as private practices and community health care settings, may choose to retain policies regarding masking and active and passive COVID-19 screening.

#### **Effective April 27:**

- End of all remaining Ministry of Health Directives, measures, and orders
- Masking requirements removed in all remaining environments, including health care settings
- Chief Medical Officer of Health (CMOH) to provide guidance and recommendations on infection prevention and control and use of PPE

#### **CASLPO Practice Advice:**

The College will continue to monitor for guidance and recommendations from the CMOH and Ministry of Health and will advise registrants as information is received. The CASLPO website will be updated as the information continues to evolve.

In summary, registrants are encouraged to use professional and clinical judgement to determine the infection prevention and control measures, including the Point of Care Risk Assessment (PCRA) to minimize risk for patients, colleagues and themselves. Continue to comply with CASLPOs' [Infection Prevention and Control Standards](#). Follow your [local Public Health Unit](#), [Ministry of Health recommendations](#) and workplace policies.

Contact CASLPO's [Practice Advice Team](#) if you have questions.

**Stay Safe. Stay Healthy!**

**Brian O'Riordan**  
Registrar

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