



## More businesses reopening in Stage 3

Dear Stakeholder,

This Friday, nearly all businesses in St. Catharines will be allowed to reopen as the Ontario Government announced earlier this week the **Niagara Region is among the seven regions it's moving into Stage 3.**

Starting July 24, with the appropriate health and safety measures in place, more businesses, including fitness centres, movie theatres and event spaces will be permitted to reopen. Stage 3 also eases some restrictions in place for businesses that opened during previous stages. For example, with proper safety measures in place restaurants will be able to offer indoor dining and spas will be able to offer additional personal care services.

**[Read more about what can open in Stage 3.](#)**

While nearly all businesses will be allowed to reopen as part of Stage 3, Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health, public health experts and other officials have advised some high-risk places and activities are not yet safe to reopen, even if within a region entering Stage 3.

The following places and activities have been deemed high risk due to the likelihood of large crowds congregating, difficulties with physical distancing, or challenges maintaining the proper cleaning and sanitation required to prevent the spread of COVID-19:

- Amusement parks and water parks
- Buffet-style food services
- Dancing at restaurants and bars, other than by performers hired by the establishment who follow specific requirements
- Overnight stays at camps for children
- Private karaoke rooms
- Prolonged or deliberate contact while playing sports
- Saunas, steam rooms, bath houses and oxygen bars
- Table games at casinos and gaming establishments

The Ontario Government is committed to working with businesses and sectors that are either not able to reopen in Stage 3, or who are experiencing significant challenges opening within the restrictions.

[Read more about how to work with the province on reopening.](#)

As part of the Stage 3 reopening, Ontario will also be increasing gathering limits in St. Catharines, subject to physical distancing requirements:

- Indoor gathering limits will increase to a maximum of 50 people
- Outdoor gathering limits will increase to a maximum of 100 people

Gathering limits are subject to physical distancing requirements. Public gathering limits apply to indoor and outdoor events, such as community events or gatherings, concerts, live shows, festivals, conferences, sports and recreational fitness activities, fundraisers, fairs, festivals or open houses. A two metre distance must still be maintained at such events.

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## City mask by-law in effect

REMINDER: The **City of St. Catharines** mandatory mask by-law is now in effect.

The mask by-law applies to all indoor spaces open to public, including City buildings, religious spaces and local businesses. Please note, the requirement only applies to persons in spaces open to the public. Staff in employee-only spaces or those behind protective barriers, such as plexiglass, do not need to wear a mask. Enclosed public spaces, include, but are not limited to:

- Retail businesses
- Personal service businesses
- Food-sales businesses including restaurants, cafes, grocery stores, convenience stores
- Shopping malls and similar structures
- Places of worship
- Entertainment, recreation and cultural venues such as museums, galleries, bingo halls, banquets halls, community centres, cinemas, and concert venues
- Indoor sports and recreational facilities such as gyms, arenas, yoga studios and clubhouses
- Common areas of hotels, motels and other short-term accommodations including elevators, lobbies, rest rooms, laundry rooms, gyms and

kitchens; this does not include common areas of residential apartment buildings and condominiums

- Locations used as an open house, presentation centre or other real-estate facility

Business owners are required to develop a written policy prohibiting persons from entering the enclosed space, or remaining within it, unless that person is wearing a mask. Additionally, business owners will be required to post clear and prominent signage at entry points that visitors and employees are required to wear a mask in accordance with the by-law.

The policy must be available for inspection by enforcement officers by request, and should outline not only the mask requirement but also the exemptions mentioned above. The policy must also require employees within areas accessible by the public to also wear masks and all employees must be trained in the requirements of the policy.

Businesses are also expected to have hand sanitizer at entrances / exits to the premises.

The policy must also outline exemptions for temporary removal of masks.

Businesses can download digital copies of printable signs for posting at entrances in addition to a mask policy they can complete and print and an operator implementation guide. [Find the mask by-law resources here.](#)

### **Questions? Concerns?**

Contact Citizens First via phone at 905.688.5600 or by email at [CitizensFirst@stcatharines.ca](mailto:CitizensFirst@stcatharines.ca).

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## **Resources to prepare for Stage 3**

To help businesses prepare for Stage 3, the province, in partnership with health and safety associations, has released more than [170 health and safety guidance documents](#) to help employers in multiple sectors.

The government also offers information to help prevent the spread of COVID-

19, including tip sheets, workplace posters and more at [Ontario.ca/COVIDsafety](https://Ontario.ca/COVIDsafety).

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Sign up now for the [St. Catharines Enterprise Centre](#)'s next free webinar for small businesses:

- Business Planning & Cash Flow  
What is a business plan and why do you need one? Learn the basics of developing a business plan and cash flow forecasting.

July 28, 2020 at 10 a.m.

[Registration required](#)

The August schedule of webinars will be published soon. Bookmark [this page](#) and check back soon to see what's being offered next month.

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## Help customers find you with PickUpSTC

Restaurants will be able to offer indoor dining as part of Stage 3, starting on Friday, July 24.

Help customers find you with a FREE business listing on PickUpSTC. You can list your operating hours, pickup and delivery options, status for patio and dining room, health and safety guidelines and more so customers know before they go.

All businesses, including retail, fitness studios, are welcome to join PickUpSTC. [Learn more and list your business here.](#)

Here are more resources to help you welcome back your customers:

- [Workplace Safety and Prevention Services](#) has assembled a number of useful business planning resources and industry association supports.

In partnership with the Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development, WSPS - along with health and safety associations - have developed technical sector-specific guidance documents to assist employers as they prepare to reopen their businesses.

These **documents** outline safety measures that should be followed so that workplaces can be reopened safely for workers, customers and the general public.



## City teams up with NAC on Downtown drive-in experience

Team STC is proud to partner with the **Niagara Artists Centre** to help bring Nomadic Cinema, an art house drive-in experience with menus by local restaurants, to Downtown St. Catharines and help support local.

NAC has teamed up with Wellington Court Restaurant, Dispatch Restaurant and Mahtay Cafe and Lounge to launch this program in St. Catharines. Learn more, see what's playing this month, buy tickets and order food [here](#).

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## Weekend road closures on St. Paul Street support local business

We continue to support local businesses by creating a downtown pedestrian-only zone on a section of St. Paul Street with weekend road closures.

We are partnering with the [St. Catharines Downtown Association](#) to help bring more people downtown by creating an open and safe traffic-free pedestrian area and allowing businesses expand outdoors on nearby sidewalks and on-street parking spots. Weekend road closures take place on the following schedule:

- Friday: 3 p.m. to 11 p.m.
- Saturday: 10 a.m. to 11 p.m.
- Sunday: 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Downtown businesses should be aware the road closure will limit vehicle access and should arrange to receive deliveries outside of closure hours. Parking is available at the City's Meridian Centre and David S. Howes lots for businesses (and residents) in the closure area that lose access to parking. Here are a few more reminders for participating businesses:

- Keep patio tables 2 meters apart
- Clearly mark patio area
- Keep furniture on sidewalks and in parking spots, leave the roadway for pedestrians
- Remove furniture when the street reopens
- Ensure staff, customers can physically distance
- Sanitize frequently-touched surfaces often
- Provide ways for everyone to properly clean hands
- Minimize contact when taking payments
- Post info, policies and instructions for everyone to see
- Consider using a reservation system



## Free workshop program to help you overcome your digital barriers

Interested in learning how to digitally modernize your business? The Toronto Region Board of Trade is currently accepting applications for its **Recovery Activation Program**.

The Recovery Activation Program (RAP) is an immersive online workshop program connecting businesses with industry experts for guidance, mentorship and practical advice about process modernization and end-to-end digital transformation.

RAP is a free program for businesses and supports firms of any size across Ontario. Participants will graduate from RAP with an expertly vetted Digital Transformation Blueprint which will detail a specific plan to attack each

participant's unique barriers to digital connectivity and will act as a highly practical tool throughout their digital restructuring.

[Apply here.](#)



## Webinar: Overcoming COVID-19 and Exporting Your Goods into the USA under CUSMA

Niagara Region Economic Development in partnership with Export Development Canada, Canada Border Services Agency, and the U.S. Customs and Border Protection Agency present the [Exporting your goods into the USA Under the New NAFTA \(CUSMA\) webinar](#).

This webinar is set for Wednesday, July 29 at 11 a.m. and offers valuable economic insight presented by Export Development Canada's Deputy Chief Economist as well as useful tips and best practices from two experienced customs officers from the Canada Border Services Agency and the U.S. Customs and Border Protection Agency to aid in getting your goods to into the United States of America as smoothly as possible.

The end of the presentation will have an interactive Q&A session where our experts will be happy to answer any questions provided with time permitted.

Learn more and register [here](#).

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## More help for businesses

### ShopHERE Powered by Google

Here's your chance to build an eCommerce site for free! TeamSTC is bringing ShopHERE powered by Google to support our main street small businesses and local artists.

Space is limited [Learn more and sign up here.](#)

### Digital Transformation Grants

St. Catharines main street small businesses could be eligible for a \$2,500 digital transformation grant Digital Main Street. The program is focused on assisting main street small businesses (MSB) with their adoption of technologies. Read about how a Digital Transformation Grant helped Little Chief and Co. during the COVID-19 pandemic [here](#).

[Learn more and apply here.](#)

### Regional Relief and Recovery Fund

St. Catharines small or medium-sized business that haven't been able to access other Federal government relief programs to help with the impact of COVID-19 may be eligible for up to \$40,000 in funding from the Regional Relief and Recovery Fund through Venture Niagara.

[Learn more and apply here.](#)

### Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance Program

Provides relief for small businesses experiencing financial hardship due to COVID-19.

[Learn more and apply here.](#)

### Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy

This wage subsidy will enable you to re-hire workers previously laid off as a

result of COVID-19, help prevent further job losses, and better position you to resume normal operations following the crisis.

[Learn more and apply here](#)

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please contact us by visiting our website [InvestinSTC](#)

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