

Safety Considerations for Business Reopening

Retail Sector

As business owners are preparing to gradually reopen their businesses, the Province of Ontario has released a set of safety guidelines by sector. To assist with your strategy to reopen your business, there are several key safety factors to be aware of for your operational requirements and business recovery.

These new sector-specific guidelines feature recommended actions employers plan for as they prepare to transition to a new operational model during the COVID-19 pandemic.

- ▶ Businesses must find ways to ensure appropriate physical distancing. This can be accomplished through methods such as:
 - Implementing contactless payment options
 - holding team meetings outdoors
 - staggering shift times and using ground markings
 - barriers to manage traffic flow

- ▶ Additional changes to the workplace may need to be implemented, such as installing plexiglass barriers, increasing the air intake on building heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems to increase air flow, and using boot sanitizing trays.

- ▶ Businesses must be aware of promoting proper workplace sanitation, including providing personal protective equipment, substituting dry dusting with vacuuming, ensuring customer-facing staff are given hand sanitizer, dedicating a place to dispose of sanitizing wipes, and enforcing handwashing before and after breaks.

- ▶ Businesses must follow public health measures and should review the workplace safety guidelines to do their part to stop the spread of COVID-19.

To ensure the safety of your employees and customers, and to stop the spread of COVID-19, business owners are encouraged to read and implement the [sector specific guidelines](#).

Contact the Small Business Centre at 705-720-2445 or smallbusiness@barrie.ca for further information or questions.

