

GUIDANCE FOR BINGO HALLS

Overview

Under current Chief Medical Officer of Health Orders, businesses and entities are required to:

- implement practices to minimize the risk of transmission of infection among attendees;
- provide procedures for rapid response if an attendee develops symptoms of illness;
- ensure that attendees maintain high levels of sanitation and personal hygiene;
- comply, to the extent possible, with the [COVID-19 General Relaunch Guidance](#), this guidance, and any other applicable Alberta Health guidance found at: <https://www.alberta.ca/biz-connect.aspx>.

This document has been developed to support bingo hall operators in reducing the risk of transmission of COVID-19 among attendees (including workers, volunteers, patrons, and the general public). The guidance provided outlines public health and infection prevention and control measures, specific to this setting.

This document and the guidance within it is subject to change and will be updated as needed. Current information related to COVID-19 can be found: <https://www.alberta.ca/covid-19-information.aspx>.

COVID-19 Risk Mitigation

Before Re-Opening	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Before re-starting gaming operations, bingo hall operators are to submit an operational plan to Alberta Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis (AGLC) detailing how they plan to meet the Chief Medical Officer of Health's orders and guidelines.• Prior to reopening, all properties should clean and disinfect public and shared spaces in accordance with guidance set out in the COVID-19 General Relaunch Guidance.• Many buildings where bingo facilities are located have had reduced or no water flow through the plumbing system during the pandemic, leading to the stagnation of water in the pipes. Prior to re-opening, each site needs to ensure fresh water replaces the stagnant water in the water lines. See Guidance for Flushing Water Systems.
General Guidance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Encourage and facilitate staff, volunteers and patrons to stay up to date with developments related to COVID-19.• Notify staff, volunteers and patrons of the steps being taken to prevent the risk of transmission, and the importance of their roles in these measures.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ COVID-19 signage should be posted in highly visible locations:

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ “Help prevent the spread” posters are available. ▪ When possible, provide necessary information in languages that are preferred by clients. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Albertans must follow CMOH Order 05-2020, which establishes legal requirements for quarantine and isolation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Anyone with symptoms of COVID-19; with a history of international travel in the last 14 days; or with close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the past 14 days must remain at home. <p>To support public health contact tracing efforts in the event that a staff member, volunteer or patron tests positive, operators should consider collecting the names and contact information of patrons, staff and volunteers on shift.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing information is voluntary for patrons. An organization must obtain an individual’s consent and notify them about the purpose and legal authority for the collection. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Any personal information that is collected for COVID-19 contact tracing can only be used for this purpose. • Information about clients will only be requested by Alberta Health Services if a potential exposure occurs onsite. • Records should only be kept for 2 weeks. An organization must make reasonable security arrangements to protect the personal information. • For more information, the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner has released Pandemic FAQ: Customer Lists about collecting personal information from customers during the COVID-19 pandemic. • The <i>Personal Information Protection Act</i> (PIPA) provides private section organization with a framework for conducting the collection, use and disclosure of personal information. The <i>Freedom of Information and Protection Act</i> applies to public bodies. • For questions about your obligations under PIPA, please contact the FOIP-PIPA Help Desk by phone at 780-427-5848.
<p>Screening and Response Plan</p>	<p>Bingo association or operator should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post signs that instruct those who are required to isolate to not enter. • Consider implementing active screening of patrons and staff for symptoms of fever, sore throat, cough, runny nose or difficulty breathing. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Bingo associations and operators may choose to use Alberta Health Daily Checklist. ○ The Alberta Health Services COVID-19 Self-Assessment tool can be used to arrange testing.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a rapid response plan that sets out a fast-action plan for operators when a staff member or client shows symptoms or tests positive for COVID-19. • Staff should be familiar with and follow the rapid response plan if an attendee starts feeling symptoms during a shift. This should include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Immediately isolating the attendee from others. ○ Cleaning and disinfecting all surfaces that may have come into contact with the symptomatic attendee. ○ Requiring hand hygiene and masking of the attendee. ○ The attendee must isolate as soon as possible.
<p>Physical Distancing</p>	<p>There is no cap on capacity for bingo halls, as long as there is a distance of at least 2 metres or appropriate barriers between all attendees that are not members of same household.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical distancing of 2 metres must be maintained at all times between attendees not from the same household unless physical barriers are in place. To facilitate physical distancing, consider: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Establishing an online system for patrons to RSVP to attend at a specific time or event. ○ Offering options for remote participation (e.g., telephone, video conference), in particular for patrons who are at greater risk of severe disease, including people over 65 years of age and people with chronic medical conditions. ○ Developing seating plans to ensure a distance of at least 2 metres, or use barriers, between players. ○ Aisles should be wide enough to allow room for people to maintain physical distancing. Consider using one-way traffic flow to help maintain distancing. ○ Reminding all patrons, through signs at entrances, of the legal requirements to isolate or quarantine if experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, if returning from international travel, or if they have been exposed to a confirmed case of COVID-19. ○ Giving verbal reminders to observe physical distancing. ○ Where possible, establishing different entry and exits from the bingo facility. ○ Controlling and staggering entry into, and exit from, the bingo hall (e.g. by dismissing individuals by household or section, rather than all at once). ○ Identifying areas, such as lobbies, where crowding and bottlenecks are common, and using volunteers, staff, or barriers to redirect people who may gather in these areas. ○ Using directional arrows to enable required physical distancing when entering and exiting the aisles. ○ Distancing requirements must also be applied: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ In washrooms in the case of urinals and/or sinks.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ At stationary sales stations (markers for 2 metre distancing at stations). ▪ At the cash office. ▪ In staff and volunteer only areas, such as lockers, storage and/or eating areas. ○ Floor stations must be equipped with protective shields. ○ Breaks for staff and volunteers should be staggered to avoid overcrowding in areas designated for staff and volunteer use. • Develop strategies to minimize the handling of objects between multiple staff, volunteers and patrons (such as microphones, bingo cards, bingo dabbers) and ensure frequent cleaning and disinfecting of these objects.
<p>Hand Hygiene, Respiratory Etiquette & Cleaning and Disinfection</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hand sanitizer stations, with at least 60% alcohol content, should be provided in clearly marked locations at the entry and exit, and throughout the hall. • Organizers should make every effort to encourage respiratory etiquette (e.g., coughing or sneezing into a bent elbow, promptly disposing of used tissues in a lined garbage bin) is followed. • The use of posters that remind attendees to practice respiratory etiquette, hand hygiene and encouraging patrons to wear non-medical masks. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Posters are available here. • A set rotation for cleaning and disinfecting high-touch areas (e.g. countertops, tables, tills, debit machines, calculators, and bathrooms) should be put in place with a sign-off sheet to monitor compliance. • All occupied tables, chairs and stations should be cleaned and disinfected after every event. This includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Volunteer stations. ○ Cashier stations. ○ Tables occupied by patrons. • Enhanced cleaning and disinfecting of E-Bingo devices is expected. Where applicable, every effort should be made to sanitize E-Bingo devices after each patron vacates the machine. • To preserve the integrity of the equipment, the specific cleaning solution used for E-Bingo devices is to be approved by AGLC Gaming Division and align with Alberta Health Services' Public Health Recommendations for Environmental Cleaning of Public Facilities.
<p>Retail and Food Service</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retail businesses within bingo halls, such as gift shops, must adhere to the Guidance for Retail Businesses. • Restaurants, cafes, bars, and pubs located within bingo facilities must adhere to the Guidance for Restaurants, Cafes, Pubs and Bars.
<p>Live Performances</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performances which include live singing should not be permitted at this time. Bingo facilities that offer live performances must take additional precautions as outlined in the Guidance for Live Music, Dance and Theatre.