COVID-19 INFORMATION
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 provides 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 | • 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. |
| Physical Distancing | • Prior to reopening, all properties should clean and disinfect public and shared spaces in accordance with guidance set out in the Workplace Guidance for Businesses. |
| | • 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. |
| Physical Distancing | • Physical distancing of two-metres must be maintained at all times unless physical barriers are in place. To facilitate physical distancing, consider: |
| | o Establishing an online system for patrons to RSVP to attend at a specific time or event. |
| | o Offering options for remote participation (e.g., telephone, video conference), in particular for patrons who are at greater risk of severe
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- Disease, including people over 65 years of age and people with chronic medical conditions.
  - Bingo facility operators should provide information to patrons, via signs and verbal announcements, to help reduce the spread of COVID-19. This could include:
    - Encouraging patrons to use the online self-screening tool before every visit to the bingo facility.
    - 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.
    - Encouraging hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette while in the bingo facility.
    - Encouraging patrons to wear non-medical masks.
    - Posting risk mitigation signs from the Government of Alberta website around the bingo facility.

Facility
The bingo association or operator should make adjustments to the bingo facility to support physical distancing among staff, volunteers, and patrons, including:
- Developing seating plans to ensure two-metres distance between players.
- 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:
  - In washrooms in the case of urinals and/or sinks.
  - At stationary sales stations (markers for two-metre distancing at stations).
  - At the cash office.
- 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.

Protecting Staff and Volunteers
- Operators should have written policies for:
  - Self-screening of staff.
  - Rapid response if a staff member, volunteer or patron starts to experience symptoms while onsite.
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- Operators are also encouraged to do a daily visual check for symptoms of the staff members, volunteers and patrons.
- Staff and volunteers be physically protected by barriers or masks in places where physical distancing is not possible.

### Hand Hygiene, Cleaning and Disinfection
- 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.
- 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 and stations should be cleaned and disinfected after every event. This includes:
  - 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 guest 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.

### Retail and Food Service
- 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.

### Live Performances
- 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 Artistic Performances and Theatre [hyperlink pending].