



# Membership Advisory

## Guidance for Museums – New Capacity Limits for Restriction Exemption Program

On December 24, 2021 at 12:01am, the Government of Alberta enacted new limits on [temporary public health measures](#) to protect the health care system, stop the spread of COVID-19, and increase vaccination rates. The new restrictions apply to venues participating in the Restrictions Exemption Program and including capacity restrictions for venues with fire occupancy load over 500. Refer to [Alberta Health Services](#) and the [Government of Alberta](#) for the most current information relating to COVID-19.

The new limits apply to institutions participating in the [Restrictions Exemption Program](#). Museums are considered in-scope operators and eligible to participate in this program. To participate museums must requiring the following from all visitors aged 12 and over:

- Valid proof of vaccination,
- Proof of a privately paid negative rapid test result taken within 72 hours of service. Tests from Alberta Health Services or Alberta Precision Laboratories as well as photos of a rapid test or self-test completed offsite are not **are not valid as proof of negative rapid results test**, or,
- Documentation of medical exemption.

In addition to the existing requirements of the Restriction Exemption Program, museums with a fire capacity load of 500 or more must also adhere to the following restrictions that came into effect December 24, 2021:

- Limit capacity to 50% if fire occupancy load is over 1,000,
- Limit capacity to 500 if fire capacity load is between 500 and 999

Museums hosting indoor events must adhere to the following restrictions that came into effect December 24, 2021:

- Limit of 10 people maximum per table with no mingling between tables,
- No interactive activities (ex. dancing)
- If they have a Special Event Licence, liquor service ends at 11:00pm and must close at 12:30am.

Face masks continue to be required in all indoor public spaces, regardless of participation in the Restriction Exemption Program.

Institutions participating in the Restriction Exemption Program can require more measures, but not less. The decision to participate should be clearly communicated to the public and your staff / volunteers. More information about the requirements for the Restriction Exemption Program, including recommended screening process and what is considered proof of vaccination, is available [here](#).



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Museums that decide not to participate in the Restriction Exemption Program must continue to follow the restrictions in place as of September 20, 2021:

- Capacity restricted to 1/3 fire code occupancy
- Attendees must be with household members only, or two close contacts if they live alone.
- Fully outdoor facilities (excluding bathrooms) have no capacity restrictions, but two metres distancing between households or 2 close contacts for those living alone must be maintained.

The Alberta Museums Association (AMA) has created several resources to support museums as they prepare to welcome visitors back to their sites. We recommend members consult our [\*Guidance for Alberta Museums during the Pandemic\*](#) resource for sector-specific considerations to ensure they are reopening and operating safely and in accordance with all public health guidelines.

Health & Safety Toolkits are also available to order through the [AMA Bookstore](#). These toolkits include a variety of physical and digital resources to support organizations in the museum and heritage sector, including physical distancing stickers and instructional signage to direct visitors through your space. Click [here](#) for a list of the full contents of the toolkit.

If you have any questions about reopening your museum or the resources above, please contact the AMA Advisory Team at [advisory@museums.ab.ca](mailto:advisory@museums.ab.ca). For the most current public health measures, please see the Government of Alberta's [website](#).