

Elections Canada's COVID-19 Pandemic Adaptive Measures for Polling Places

The health and safety of all participants in the electoral process is of paramount importance.

Note: In the context of this document, “visitors,” includes electors, election workers, candidates, candidates’ representatives, service providers, auditors and observers.

Elections Canada has reviewed and adapted its procedures and practices in consultation with public health authorities to deliver an accessible, safe, and secure election. When renting a facility to use during the 44th general election, Elections Canada is committed to consistently implementing the below adaptive health and safety measures:

- As recommended by public health authorities and at no additional cost to landlords, election workers on-site will implement health and safety measures for themselves and all visitors, such as, but not limited to:
 - Actively pre-screening all election workers for COVID-19 symptoms leading up to polling day(s).
 - Immediately calling to inform the returning officer if an election worker has been diagnosed with COVID-19, or is awaiting COVID-19 test results, so a replacement can be arranged before polling day(s).
 - On polling days, election workers exhibiting symptoms must follow public health guidelines and immediately isolate themselves from others, go home as soon as possible, and avoid all interactions.
 - Installing hand sanitizing stations at the entrance and exit of the voting room and/or polling place, and keeping additional hand sanitizer on all service desks.
 - Providing personal protective equipment (PPE) for election workers, such as transparent physical barriers, face masks, and face shields.
 - Gloves and disinfectant wipes will be provided for use at the polling place (e.g., for disinfecting frequently touched surfaces and shared tools throughout the day).
 - Offering face masks to visitors who do not bring their own.
 - Disinfecting frequently touched surfaces in the voting room and other areas of the polling place (e.g., handrails, door handles, elevator buttons, chairs, tables, voting tools, etc.) during voting hours, using products approved by Health Canada and supplied by Elections Canada, at no additional cost to landlords.
 - Maintaining physical distancing (i.e., two metres), as well as room and/or polling place capacity limits.

- Asking all visitors to add their information to the *Entry Register*.
 - The completed *Entry Register* will be provided to local public health authorities upon request.
- Ensuring doors and windows are kept open, where possible, to reduce touch points and encourage air circulation.
- Arranging traffic flow (one-way, where possible) to allow appropriate physical distancing for visitors.
- Providing additional on-site election workers and/or security guards to monitor the flow of visitors and to ensure areas designated as “off-limits” are not accessed, at no additional cost to landlords.
- Discussing with landlords their requirements for cleaning and disinfecting common areas, such as lobbies, entrances, and washrooms throughout the day, as well as cleaning and disinfecting the voting room and washrooms outside of voting hours (i.e., before opening and after closing).
 - Elections Canada may use either the landlord’s preferred cleaning company or an external cleaning service, at no additional cost to the landlord.
- Deploying additional signage and posters informing visitors of COVID-19 health and safety protocols (e.g., COVID-19 main entrance posters, hand-washing, physical distancing, masks, floor markers, etc.).
 - Existing signage posted by the landlord to comply with local, or provincial or territorial requirements, will not be removed.
- Placing standard directional signage to clearly indicate the path to the voting room (direct access to the voting room is recommended).

During the 44th general election, Elections Canada is committed to consistently implementing these adaptive measures for the duration of the lease period. These measures may be adjusted based on new recommendations from public health authorities.