



November 18, 2020

**Communication Advisory**

**Re: Province of Ontario Update regarding increase in COVID numbers:**

Effective November 16, 2020, multiple health districts within the province have been moved to the Red Level as directed by Premier Doug Ford.

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/covid-19-response-framework-keeping-ontario-safe-and-open>

COVID-19 numbers continue to rise within the province. That combined with the vulnerability of our Special Olympics athletes and their families, we have made the very difficult decision to take action to ensure our membership and their families remain safe and healthy.

**Effective immediately, the following parameters are in place:**

Prov. Of Ontario Zone	Program	Action
RED ZONE	ALL IN-PERSON PROGRAMS	ON HOLD UNTIL DECEMBER 15, 2020
ORANGE, YELLOW, GREEN ZONES	ALL INDOOR IN-PERSON PROGRAMS	ON HOLD UNTIL DECEMBER 15, 2020
ORANGE, YELLOW, GREEN ZONES	ALL OUTDOOR PROGRAMS	MAY CONTINUE TO RUN WITH EXTRA PRECAUTIONS (see below)
ALL ZONES	VIRTUAL PROGRAMS	PROCEED AS PLANNED
ALL ZONES	PARTNER PROGRAMS	TO BE EVALUATED ON AN INDIVIDUAL BASIS

Extra Precautions: Sport training sessions must not engage in any games or scrimmage type drills and we recommend participants increase their physical distancing to 4m (12ft) while engaging in rigorous training drills (speed drills, high exertion exercise drills, etc.).

Additionally, Special Olympics sport training sessions are not considered an essential service and therefore, athletes and coaches / volunteers should not be crossing regional borders to attend a Special Olympics training session.

We strongly encourage all communities to consider outdoor activities to engage our athletes and coaches. Outdoor walking and hiking clubs are a great way to stay active and fit.

Please continue to visit the Special Olympics Ontario Return to Program website:  
<https://www1.specialolympicsontario.com/return-to-program/#sports>

We will continue to monitor the COVID-19 guidelines as established by the Province of Ontario. If we all work together and remain vigilant in our actions, we will get through this second wave of the pandemic. We look forward to the day when all our sport training sessions can return to action and the worry of the pandemic is behind us. Until then, please keep yourself and your loved ones safe.

Please stay informed by going to our website [www.specialolympicsontario.com](http://www.specialolympicsontario.com) for the latest updates.

Should you have any questions or would like to speak with a staff person about the pandemic please email [covid19@specialolympicsontario.com](mailto:covid19@specialolympicsontario.com) or call 1-888-333-5515 ext. 311 and leave a message and we will follow up.

Thank you for understanding,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Glenn MacDonell', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Glenn MacDonell  
President & CEO

cc: Special Olympics Board of Directors