



# Skills Ontario Competition

## COVID-19 Safety Plan

**Business name:** Skills Ontario

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**References/ Consultations:** Bill Fetter (Greater Essex County District School Board), MLTSD Draft Safety Plan, Provincial Government and Health Unit Guidelines

**These guidelines outline the Provincial Government and public health requirements and include strategies and best practices for ensuring spaces that are to be occupied are done so in a safe manner, and support the needs of staff, competitors, mentors/teachers and visitors, hereafter the 'participant(s)' (where permitted). The guidelines consider the specific needs of diverse groups and competitions and are based on the best available scientific evidence and expert opinion. For the latest information from the Provincial Government COVID-19 response and policies, please visit <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/public-health-measures> .**

## **Measures to stay safe from exposure to COVID-19 and Controlling Risk of Transmission**

- All participants must self isolate for a minimum of fourteen (14) days if they travel to the U.S.A. or anywhere outside Canada prior to arrival of the competition venue. Including even if they do not show any signs or symptoms as they may be a carrier of COVID-19.
- Prior to arrival at the remote virtual site, it is recommended that all persons attending are to take the Ontario.ca COVID online Self-Assessment. The self-assessment should be completed before leaving your household, hotel, motel, accommodation, etc. as a general screening and indicator whether or not you should attend the competitions, an activity or school. If you have, or think you have symptoms, and/or were exposed to COVID-19 or a near contact, do not attend, self-isolate and seek assessment from a health care provider. The Ontario.ca COVID Online Self-Assessment can be found at <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/self-assessment/> .
  - The self-assessment is only meant as an aid and cannot diagnose you. Anyone who is sick or has any symptoms of illness, including those not listed in this screening tool, should stay home and seek assessment from a health care provider. Consult a health care provider if you have medical questions or concerns.
- Prior to arrival at your remote virtual site, to consider using a self-test (i.e.: a rapid test) before attending.
  - A positive self-test result means that you have an infection and should self-isolate to reduce the risk of spreading the disease. You should continue to monitor if you adopt further symptoms and seek medical care if required. Do not attend the event if you test positive on your self-test and contact Skills Ontario / the Tech Chair promptly.
- It is mandatory for all entering the building as of current provincial regulations to wear a mask that covers the chin and nose and bring a back-up mask with them. It is recommended that a fresh mask be worn to the competition venue. It is recommended where possible, to wear an N-95 mask.
- Using hand sanitizer and/or washing of hands upon entry and exit and using the restroom, before and after eating, and if possible after touching other items and objects that may have been touched by others before or after you. Using soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds.

- All persons participating are advised to bring their own personal hand sanitizer with them and have available in their vehicles when travelling between locations for immediate use, when and if required.
- All tools and equipment should be cleaned prior to and after participant(s) use with an appropriate Ministry approved cleaner for COVID-19, or that of your institutions policies and procedures (example: DIN approved disinfectant wipes). To be used according to the manufacturer's recommendations, following all instructions for the product.
  - Tools and equipment should not be shared where possible
- Masks are only to be removed for eating in specified areas and any explicit requirements of a contest Participants inside their remote virtual contest space shall attempt to be 2m (six feet) apart or the recommended distance as stated through the Provincial Government and Health Units.
- Welding competitors are required to wear a 100% cotton mask or a face covering for contests with any welding. Synthetic masks are not recommended considering their risk of flammability.
- All persons in attendance are to follow the guidelines set by Skills Ontario, the Provincial Government, local health agencies, and the policies set forth by the institution in which a visitor represents (example a college, training delivery agent or school board)
- Always avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth. If you do, wash your hands and /or use hand sanitizer.
- Avoid being in contact with those who may be ill and high-risk areas prior to participating in any activity
- Avoid touching surfaces that are commonly touched, or take preventative measures (i.e., a towel, or washing hands/sanitizer immediately after touching)
- If you require the use of a tissue, to dispose of it immediately, and follow up by washing your hands and/ or using hand sanitizer
- Any updated and/or changes in policies or procedures by Skills Ontario, and from the Provincial Government and local health agencies that affect the Skills Ontario Competition will be updated on the Skills Ontario website in COVID Protocols section and noted in the Change Log. Any contest specific updates and/ or changes will be communicated to all participants directly involved.
- It is recommended that clothing at the end of each day be laundered.
- Avoid cash payments wherever possible. To use "swipe", "tap", or electronic fund transfers (EFT)
- Recommended that signage is posted throughout the environment that the competitor is competing from to adhere to physical distancing and other COVID-19 safety measures
- Recommended that a linear flow as been created in hallways and classrooms to prevent individuals from crossing each other
- Recommended to monitor Public Health Ontario, Government of Ontario and Health Units websites for updates on changes in Ontario
- Any updated and/or changes in policies or procedures by the institution in which a participant represents, or location from which they are competing at is communicated to all participants involved.

- Any updates and/or changes to the Skills Ontario Competition Information Guide, will be noted in the Change Log. Including all safety measures regarding COVID-19
- If a location has a visitor log, to ensure that all participants, if applicable, are signing in and out and providing the appropriate information. This is for communication by that institution to be able to follow up if there is any information to share, should a COVID-19 case arise at their location.
- Recommended that clothing at the end of each day to be laundered if in contact with others outside of your immediate household, or if others in your immediate household have been in contacts with others.

### **If you feel unwell prior or during the event**

- If a participant of any kind (staff member, Tech Chair/Judge, competitor or mentor/teacher) feels ill before the competition, they should not be attending their remote virtual location.
  - It is recommended that if an individual feels unwell prior or during the day of attendance, to take the Ontario.ca COVID online Self-Assessment screening, if you have or think you have symptoms, and/ or were exposed to COVID-19. You can find the Ontario.ca COVID online Self-Assessment at, <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/self-assessment/> . The self-assessment is only meant as an aid and cannot diagnose you. Anyone who is sick or has any symptoms of illness, including those not listed in this screening tool, should stay home and seek assessment from a health care provider if needed. Consult a health care provider if you have medical questions.
- If the online self-assessment is not passed, it is recommended that the participant does not attend their remote virtual location or to leave the venue. This should be communicated to their supervisor/teacher/parent/guardian. If the participant is a competitor, it is mandatory to communicate if you will no longer be participating in the Virtual Skills Ontario Competition to Skills Ontario at [competitions@skillsontario.com](mailto:competitions@skillsontario.com) . If the participant is a competitor who is required to leave during their virtual contest the day of the competition, to notify their Technical Committee during the live call (who will notify Skills Ontario).
- If there is a positive case of COVID-19, it must be communicated to the appropriate local Health Unit and to the Health Unit of the remote locations competing from/ region where the individual is from and follow their direction. The individual should also be able to identify any other areas in which they visited (example: hotel, restaurant, grocery store) in case they are asked for tracking purposes.
- If you have come in direct contact, or think you have come in direct contact with a COVID positive case, continue to use the Ontario.ca online Self-Assessment tool, take a self test, and/ or go to be tested and self isolate until results are known

## **How Skills Ontario Manages any New Risks Caused by Changes from COVID-19**

- Continually communicate with Registration Contacts, partners, volunteers, participants and staff of any major updates and/or changes.
- Continually updating the website of any minor or major updates and/ or changes. Including the Change Log on the Competition page, for quick and easy reference
- Work collectively, for, if and when a change occurs from the Provincial Government and Public Health. If the change is significant and extensive to the current format of the Skills Ontario Competition, Skills Ontario will work internally to address the changes, but also provide the opportunity for open discussion from the Registration Contacts, on the possibilities to help problem solve and generate a potential new plan of action to move forward with the Competition
- All communications and meetings will continue by video calls, internally of staff and externally with stakeholders
- Provincial Government and Public Health Ontario websites are being continually monitored for updates.

## **How will Skills Ontario make sure the plan is working?**

- Provincial Government and Public Health Ontario websites to be monitored for updates on a regular basis
- Review the Skills Ontario Competition COVID Protocol website section on a weekly basis for if any changes are to be made
- Reflect and review safety plans as new provincial directives are implemented
- Consult with Skills Ontario staff, volunteers, Registration Contacts/School Boards/ Colleges/ Training Delivery Agents, and teachers
- All updates and/or changes to the Skills Ontario Competition will be communicated on the Skills Ontario website on the Competition page, including each change and/or update to be noted in the Change Log
- Any major change and/or update, will also be communicated to all Registration Contacts. Registered competitors, volunteers and staff through email for an immediate update.