COVID-19: Back to Normal?

It is hard to believe that we just passed the two-year anniversary of COVID-19 bringing the world to a halt. Needless to say, the pandemic has dramatically affected our day-to-day lives, businesses and the global economy in ways we could not have previously imagined. The good news is that we are finally inching toward normality, as noted below.

Entry into Canada

As of April 1, 2022, fully vaccinated travellers are no longer required to provide a negative COVID-19 test result before entering Canada. Travellers will be required to use the ArriveCan app to provide their proof of vaccination within 72 hours before arrival. Partially vaccinated or unvaccinated travellers are not currently permitted to enter Canada unless otherwise exempt. The pre-entry testing requirements for such exempt travellers remain unchanged – proof of one of the following types of test results is required:

1. Professionally administered or observed antigen test taken no more than one day before the scheduled flight or entry to Canada by land or water;
2. Valid negative molecular test taken within 72 hours of the flight's initial scheduled departure time to Canada or entry to Canada by land or water;
3. Previous positive molecular test result taken at least ten calendar days and no more than 180 calendar days before entering Canada.

Ontario

Ontario lifted most of its COVID-19 mask mandates on March 21, 2022, which required individuals to wear a mask in most workplaces, offices and indoor settings. Masks are now no longer required in restaurants, schools, gyms and stores but are still required in certain settings, including public transit, hospitals, long-term care homes and retirement homes. It is expected that the remaining restrictions will be lifted on April 27, 2022.

The loosening of the mask mandates comes just three weeks after the Ontario government ended its vaccine passport program that required individuals to show proof of vaccination to access non-essential businesses. There are no longer capacity limits on gyms, cinemas, restaurants, sporting and concert venues and social gatherings.

We are delighted that Ontario is opening up, and we hope that the worst of the pandemic is behind us. If you are looking to expand into Canada or simply continuing to grow your operations here, we encourage you to reach out to your Aird & Berlis contacts to discuss your needs.

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Contact



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Fiona is a partner at Aird & Berlis. She manages teams of other lawyers and patent agents to provide her clients with afull range of legal services to help their businesses grow.

She has extensive experience advising international businesses entering the Canadian market. To date, Fiona has advised over100 companies expanding into Canada. She advises clients inthis space all day, every day.

Whether advising clients on labour and employment matters or coordinating a team to assist in other areas, Fiona takes great care to understand her clients' businesses and deliveradvice that is tailored to meeting their specific needs. Her responsiveness, dedication to clear communication and hands-on approach show that she is personally invested in thesuccess of her clients. Fiona is a practical lawyer who enjoysworking with clients to develop workable business solutions.

Fiona has been practising for over a decade, and is a regularspeaker and writer on market expansion matters.



Felix Ng
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Felix is a member of the firm's Corporate/Commercial Group. His practice focuses on M&A transactions and advising international clients on expanding their businesses into Canada. Felix represents clients in a range of industries, including pharma, e-commerce, transportation, agriculture, food and beverage and construction.

Felix has passed Level III of the Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) Program.