# MAYORS, CHAIR URGE PROVINCE TO EASE BAN ON OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

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Halton's political leaders are reiterating their request for the Province to safely reopen outdoor activities.

"Outdoor activities done safely with physical distancing and masking are a necessary support to physical and mental health, especially during this prolonged period of lockdown," said Halton's four mayors and regional chair in a joint statement released last week.

"Guidance provided by the COVID-19 Science Advisory Table for Ontario, that has also been endorsed by the Ontario Medical Association, encourages safe outdoor activities."

While the group of top

Halton politicians said they continue to discourage large gatherings in any setting, they noted that small groups of people from different households should be allowed to meet outside for activities with masking and two-metre distancing.

The mayors and chair also said they stand with Halton's students who are calling for a safe return to sports when health guidance and evidence suggests it's safe to do so.

"Given that many sporting activities occur in city facilities, the four Halton municipalities stand ready to partner with the Province, school boards and our local fitness providers in planning for a safe restart of sports," says the letter.

"In light of the evidence and advice from the science table, we renew our call to the Province to review and reconsider the list of currently prohibited outdoor activities. We further call on the provincial government to consult with school boards and our youth to design a safe return to sports plan, so that low-contact sports can resume as soon as it is safe to do so."

Last month, the Province reversed its original decision to close playgrounds, but other outdoor amenities like golf courses, tennis and basketball courts remain closed.

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Halton's chair and mayors are asking the provincial government to allow outdoor activities like disc golf to reopen.

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