

## COVID-19 RESOURCE FOR CHARITIES & NFPs

### ONTARIO GOVERNMENT TO IMPLEMENT PROVINCE-WIDE SHUTDOWN

DECEMBER 24, 2020

AS THE NUMBER OF COVID-19 infections continues to climb, the Ontario government announced a province-wide lockdown to begin at 12:01 a.m. on Saturday, December 26, 2020. The December 21, 2020 [News Release](#) states that “[a]dditional restrictions will be put into place and reinforce that Ontarians should stay at home as much as possible to minimize transmission of the virus and prevent hospitals from becoming overwhelmed,” adding, “Employers in all industries should make every effort to allow employees to work from home.” Along with the News Release, the Ontario government also released a guidance document titled, [Provincewide Shutdown](#), summarizing the anticipated restrictions.

The Province-wide Shutdown will put on hold the current *COVID-19 Response Framework*, which categorizes Ontario’s public health units in five colour-coded zones, for a period of 14 days in Northern Ontario and 28 days in Southern Ontario regions. Appendix A of the guidance document released by the government lists the following 27 regional health units in Southern Ontario that will have lockdown restrictions until January 23, 2021.

1. Brant County Health Unit
2. Chatham-Kent Public Health
3. City of Hamilton Public Health Services
4. Durham Region Health Department
5. Eastern Ontario Health Unit
6. Grey Bruce Health Unit
7. Haldimand-Norfolk Health Unit
8. Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit
9. Halton Region Public Health
10. Hastings Prince Edward Public Health
11. Huron Perth Public Health
12. Kingston, Frontenac and Lennox & Addington Public Health
13. Lambton Public Health
14. Leeds, Grenville & Lanark District Health Unit
15. Middlesex-London Health Unit
16. Niagara Region Public Health
17. Ottawa Public Health
18. Peel Public Health
19. Peterborough Public Health
20. Region of Waterloo Public Health
21. Renfrew County and District Health Unit
22. Simcoe-Muskoka District Health Unit

23. Southwestern Public Health  
24. Toronto Public Health  
25. Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health

26. Windsor-Essex County Health Unit  
27. York Region Public Health

Other health unit regions are considered part of Northern Ontario, with lockdown restrictions ending on January 9, 2021.

In this regard, Ontario Regulation 363/20, *Stages of Reopening*, made under the *Reopening Ontario (A Flexible Response to COVID-19) Act, 2020* (“Reopening Ontario Act”) was amended on December 21, 2020 to move all Ontario public health units into the “Grey Zone of Stage 1” as of 12:01 a.m. on December 26. The restrictions applicable to areas serviced by public health units in the “Grey Zone of Stage 1” are provided in Ontario Regulation 82/20, *Rules for Areas in Stage 1*.

The “Grey” zone corresponds with the highest level of restrictions under the Reopening Ontario Act, including limiting gatherings for weddings, funerals and religious services to 10 people, indoors and outdoors, with physical distancing measures. The [Provincewide Shutdown](#) guidance document released by the government suggests that these restrictions on gatherings for weddings, funerals and religious services will still apply. The government also filed [Ontario Regulation 779/20](#) on December 21, 2020, which amends Ontario Regulation 82/20, adding provisions according to the guidelines described in the guidance document.

1. General Public Health Measures for all Businesses, Organizations and Facilities

**Public Health Advice, Recommendations and Instructions**

- Businesses or organizations must operate in compliance with the advice, recommendations, and instructions of public health officials, including any advice, recommendations or instructions on physical distancing, cleaning or disinfecting, and working remotely. Check with your local public health unit for any additional advice, recommendations or instructions.

**Physical Distancing and Line Management**

- Businesses or places must not permit patrons to line up inside the businesses or place, or to line up or congregate outside of the business or place unless they are maintaining a physical distance of at least two metres from other groups of persons and wearing a mask or face covering, unless they are entitled to an exception set out in the regulation.

## Screening

- Businesses or organizations must operate in compliance with the advice, recommendations instructions issued by the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health on screening individuals, including workplaces must screen any workers or essential visitors entering the work environment. See the [COVID-19 Screening Tool for Workplaces](#) for more information.

## Personal Protective Equipment including Eye Protection

- Personal protective equipment that provides protection of the eyes, nose, and mouth, is required if a worker is required to come within 2 metres of another person who is not wearing a face covering and not separated by plexi-glass or some other impermeable barrier.

## Capacity Limits

- All businesses or facilities must limit capacity so that every member of the public is able to maintain two metres of physical distancing from every other person, and limit the number of people occupying any room that is open to the public to 50% capacity of the particular room. Some businesses or facilities have additional capacity restrictions that apply beyond the general capacity requirements. All businesses or facilities that engage in retail sales to the public must post a sign in a location visible to the public that states the maximum capacity they are permitted to operate under.
  - The maximum number of persons permitted in a business or facility that is operating at 50 per cent capacity is determined by taking the total square metres of floor space accessible to the public in the business or facility, not including shelving and store fixtures, dividing that number by 8 and rounding the result down to the nearest whole number.
  - The maximum number of persons permitted in a business or facility that is operating at 25 per cent capacity is determined by taking the total square metres of floor space accessible to the public in the business or facility, not including shelving and store fixtures, dividing that number by 16 and rounding the result down to the nearest whole number.

## **Cleaning and Disinfection**

- Businesses or places that are open shall ensure that equipment, washrooms, locker rooms, change rooms, showers that are accessible to the public are cleaned and disinfected as frequently as is necessary to maintain a sanitary condition.

## **Face Coverings**

- Businesses or organizations must ensure that masks or face coverings are worn by any person (including members of the public and workers) in the indoor area of the business or organization, with limited exceptions.

## **Safety Plans**

- Requirement for all businesses open to prepare and make available a [COVID-19 safety plan](#). A copy of the plan shall be made available to any person for review upon request, and be posted where it would come to the attention of individuals working in or attending the business.

## 2. Organized Public Events, Social Gatherings, Religious Services, Rites and Ceremonies, Post-Secondary Institutions and Day Camps

### **Events and gatherings**

- No indoor organized public events and social gatherings, except with members of the same household (the people you live with). Individuals who live alone and single parents may consider having exclusive, close contact with another household to help reduce the negative impacts of social isolation
- Limit for outdoor organized public events and social gatherings, must comply with public health advice on physical distancing: 10 people outdoors.

### **Weddings, funerals and other religious services, rites or ceremonies**

- Weddings, funerals and other religious services, rites or ceremonies where physical distancing can be maintained:
  - 10 people indoors
  - 10 people outdoors
- Drive-in services, rites or ceremonies permitted, subject to certain conditions

- Virtual services permitted

### **Post-secondary institutions**

- Post-secondary institutions open for virtual instruction, with limited exceptions where in-person instruction is required (e.g., clinical training, trades). Subject to physical distancing with limited exceptions
- In-person teaching (each instructional space at the institution at one time) and in-person examinations cannot exceed 10 persons, with limited exemptions. Subject to additional requirements for in-person teaching that involves singing or the playing of brass or wind instruments

### **Day camps for children: Closed**

## 3. Approach in Schools and Child Care

### **Schools**

- The following approach will apply to publicly-funded and private elementary and secondary learning, with the exception of First Nation and federally operated schools:
  - Elementary and secondary school students at publicly-funded schools would participate in remote learning from January 4-January 8, 2021.
    - ◆ Publicly-funded schools and private schools in Northern public health regions would be permitted to resume in-person instruction on January 11, 2021 for both elementary and secondary schools
  - For publicly-funded schools and private schools in all other PHU regions:
    - ◆ Elementary school students would return to in person learning on January 11, 2021
    - ◆ Secondary school students would continue learning remotely until January 25, 2021 and resume in-person learning on that date
- During the applicable period, schools will be closed, except for the following exceptions:
  - For staff who are unable to deliver quality remote teaching, instruction or support to students from home
  - To provide access for child care centers in schools

## Child care

- Child care will remain open for the duration of the Provincewide Shutdown period. This includes child care offered in licensed centres, in home-based settings (licensed and unlicensed) and by authorized recreation and skill-building providers
- During the period where elementary schools are operating virtually (i.e., from January 4 to 8, inclusive), licensed child care centres and authorized recreation and skill-building providers will be prohibited from serving school-aged children. All before and after school programs are being closed during this one-week period. These programs may resume operation when elementary schools return to in-person learning on January 11, 2021
- To support the parents of school-aged children who may not be able to accommodate their child's learning/care at home, the Ministry of Education will be implementing a targeted emergency child care program for school-aged children, at no cost to eligible parents. Please refer to Appendix B for a list of eligible workers
- Operators of before and after school programs that are required to close from January 4-8, 2021 are prohibited from charging fees or otherwise penalizing parents during this time period (e.g., parents must not lose their respective child care spaces)

For further information, including a list of businesses permitted to open and sector-specific health and workplace safety measures, see [Provincewide Shutdown](#), which refers to [Ontario Regulation 82/20](#). To discuss how this may impact your charity or not-for-profit, call us toll-free at 1-877-942-0001 or email [tcarter@carters.ca](mailto:tcarter@carters.ca).



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