

COVID UPDATE - PROVINCEWIDE EMERGENCY BREAK

As of Saturday April 3, at 12:01 am. a provincewide emergency break went into effect. Please review the following for full details : <https://www.ontario.ca/page/enhancing-public-health-and-workplace-safety-measures-provincewide-shutdown>

This puts in place shutdown measures that:

- are the most stringent, to address rapidly escalating conditions, including the spread of variants of concern
- include business closures in higher risk sectors (for example, fitness activities, personal care service establishments, indoor and outdoor dining)

Read [O. Reg. 82/20](#) for details.

General public health and workplace safety measures

For businesses, organizations and facilities

Refer to [O. Reg. 82/20](#) for details.

Public health advice, recommendations and instructions

Businesses or organizations must comply with the advice, recommendations and instructions of public health officials. This includes advice, recommendations or instructions on:

- physical distancing
- cleaning or disinfecting
- working remotely

Check with your [local public health unit](#) for any additional advice, recommendations or instructions.

Work from home except where necessary

Each person responsible for a business or organization that is open shall ensure that any person who performs work for the business or organization conducts their work remotely, with limited exception, for instance, where the nature of their work requires them to be on-site at the workplace.

Physical distancing and line management

Businesses must not permit patrons to line up inside, or to line up or congregate outside, unless they:

- maintain a physical distance of at least two metres from others wear a mask or face covering (with some exceptions)

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.

For patrons

Businesses must implement passive screening for patrons by [posting signs](#) at all entrances informing people to screen themselves for COVID-19 before entry.

Active screening is required in accordance with [instructions by the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health](#). Where this is required, it is noted in the sections below.

For workers

Workplaces must screen all workers or visitors entering the work environment. See the [COVID-19 Screening Tool for Workplaces](#) for more information.

Personal protective equipment including eye protection

Everyone must wear a mask or face covering that covers their mouth, nose and chin inside any business or place that is open (with some [exceptions](#)).

Workers must wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) that protects their eyes, nose and mouth, if in the course of providing services they are:

- required to come within 2 metres of another person who is not wearing a mask or face covering in an indoor area and are not separated by plexiglass or some other impermeable barrier

Capacity limits

In person shopping permitted for all retail, subject to ability to maintain two metres of physical distancing and capacity limits of:

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- 50% for supermarkets and other stores that primarily sell groceries, convenience stores and pharmacies
- 25% for all other retail, including discount and big box retailers, liquor stores, cannabis stores, hardware stores and garden centres

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.

To calculate maximum capacity:

- for 50% capacity: divide the total square metres of floor space accessible to the public (not including shelving and store fixtures) by 8 and round down to the nearest whole number for 25% capacity: divide the total square metres of floor space accessible to the public (not including shelving and store fixtures) by 16 and round down to the nearest whole number

Cleaning and disinfection

Open businesses must ensure that equipment, washrooms, locker rooms, change rooms and 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 patrons and workers wear masks or face coverings indoors, with [limited exceptions](#).

Safety plans

Open businesses must prepare and make available a [COVID-19 safety plan](#). A copy of the plan must 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.

Construction

Construction activities or projects and related supporting services, including demolition and land surveying are allowed.