

COVID-19 Workplace Inspections

Effective Friday April 16, 2021, the Ministry of Labour announced Workplace inspections to focus on Construction Sites in Ottawa, Toronto & York.

“Starting today, the Minister of Labour, Training and Skills Development is ramping up inspections on construction sites province wide. Over 200 inspectors will be visiting more than 1,300 jobsites within the next four weeks to ensure all steps are being taken to keep workers safe.

Additionally, today is also the start of targeted visits by officers from across government to over 500 workplaces, include big box store, food processors, manufacturers and warehouses in Ottawa, Toronto and York Region which have been identified as hot spots for COVID-19. These actions are an important step to ensuring that businesses across the province operate in a safe manner. “

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Ontario Strengthens Enforcement Stay -At- Home Order

On Friday April 16, 2021, the Ontario government announced in consultation with the Chief Medical Officer of Health and other health experts, is strengthening enforcement of the province's Stay-at-Home-order while imposing new travel restrictions and further strengthening public health measures.

The Construction Industry in the ICI Sector will continue to operate as an essential service' with new restrictions affecting various sectors of the ICI sector as provided from the Ministry.

Excerpt from : [COVID-19: enhanced public health and workplace safety measures | Ontario.ca](#)

Construction

As of April 17, all non-essential workplaces in the construction sector will be closed, with only essential construction permitted to operate. Examples of non-essential sites may include shopping malls, hotels and office towers.

Critical infrastructure projects such as new hospitals, roads and bridges will continue. Residential construction that has already started will continue.

Essential construction

Construction activities or projects and related services (including land surveying and demolition services) are essential if they:

- are associated with the health care sector or long-term care, including new facilities, expansions, renovations and conversion of spaces that could be repurposed for health care space
- ensure safe and reliable operations of, or provide new capacity in:
 - municipal infrastructure
 - provincial infrastructure, including but not limited to, the transit, transportation, resource, energy and justice sectors
 - support the operations of, or provide new capacity in, electricity generation, transmission, distribution and storage, natural gas distribution, transmission and storage or in the supply of resources
 - support the operations of, or provide new capacity in, schools, colleges, universities or child care centres within the meaning of the *Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014*
- are required for:
 - the maintenance and operations of petrochemical plants and refineries

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- support the operations of, or provide new capacity in, electricity generation, transmission, distribution and storage, natural gas distribution, transmission and storage or in the supply of resources
- support the operations of, or provide new capacity in, schools, colleges, universities or child care centres within the meaning of the *Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014*
- are required for the maintenance and operations of petrochemical plants and refineries
- significant industrial petrochemical projects where preliminary work commenced before April 17, 2021
- industrial construction and modifications to existing industrial structures limited solely to work necessary for the production, maintenance or enhancement of personal protective equipment, medical devices such as ventilators and other identified products directly related to combatting the COVID-19 pandemic
- would provide additional capacity in the production, processing, manufacturing or distribution of food, beverages or agricultural products
- were started before April 17, 2021 and would provide additional capacity:
- for businesses that provide logistical support, distribution services, warehousing, storage or shipping and delivery services
- in the operation and delivery of Information Technology (IT) services or telecommunications services
- to, or enhance the efficiency or operations of, businesses that extract, manufacture, process and distribute goods, products, equipment and materials
- support the operations of broadband internet and cellular technologies and services
- are residential construction activities or projects and related services
- prepare a site for an institutional, commercial, industrial or residential development, including any necessary excavation, grading, roads or utilities infrastructure
- are necessary to temporarily close construction sites that have paused, or that are not active, to ensure ongoing public safety
- are funded in whole or in part by:
- the Crown in right of Canada or in right of Ontario
- an agency of the Crown in right of Canada or in right of Ontario
- a municipality
- are intended to provide shelter or supports for vulnerable persons or affordable housing
- being funded in whole or in part by, or are being undertaken by:

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- the Crown in right of Canada or in right of Ontario
- an agency of the Crown in right of Canada or in right of Ontario
- a municipality
- a service manager as defined the *Housing Services Act, 2011*
- a registered charity within the meaning of the *Income Tax Act (Canada)*
- a not-for-profit corporation

The announcement was made based on currently modeling which indicated COVID-19 cases would spiral out of control and the hospitals would be overwhelmed.

What is open and closed:

Below are some of the key public health and safety measures at this time.

For more information, read the:

[full list of restrictions
regulation \(O. Reg. 82/20\)](#)