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Ontario Government Declares Stay-at-Home Order

A province-wide declaration of emergency and a stay-at-home order are in effect as of April 8th at 12:01a.m.

Effective today, the COVID-19 Response Framework (colour-coded zones) is paused and the province-wide Stay-at-Home order is in effect. The order requires everyone to remain at home except for essential purposes including grocery store and pharmacy, accessing health care services, outdoor exercise, or for work that cannot be done remotely.

The province has also strengthened public health and workplace safety measures for non-essential retail under the provincwide emergency break. For further details on these enhanced measures, [click here](#).

Employers of businesses that are open are encouraged to have their employees work from home wherever possible. For those who cannot work from home, a reminder that you must screen all workers or visitors entering the work environment. See the [COVID-19 COVID 19 Screening Tool for Workplaces](#) for more information.

Vaccinations

As part of Phase Two of the COVID-19 distribution plan, people living in regions with the highest rates of transmission will be prioritized to receive a vaccine, starting with the most at-risk in the Peel and Toronto public health regions. This initiative will be expanded to additional “hot spot” regions based on established patterns of transmission, severe illness, and mortality.

Bookings for COVID-19 vaccination appointments will be extended to more age groups through the [provincial booking system](#) on Friday, April 9th, 2021. Booking eligibility will be extended to include individuals aged 50+ at mass immunisation clinics in high-risk areas.

Source: [www.ontario.ca](#)

Do I have to give my employees paid time off to get the vaccine?

There is no requirement for employers to give paid or unpaid time off to their employees to go get the vaccine. With that said, employers should consider giving time off, paid or unpaid, to encourage employees who do not want to use their personal time to get vaccinated.

If my employee receives a short notice that they can get the vaccine within the hour while at work, do I have to let them leave?

There is no requirement for employers to let their employees leave work to get the vaccine however, we recommend that employers be as accommodating as possible. If you have the capacity to let the employee go to their local clinic and get the vaccine and return to work, try to accommodate their request.

Can I ask for proof of vaccination if they take the time off?

At this time, we are advising employers to ask for proof of appointment such as a booking confirmation confirming the date and time that the employee will receive the vaccination. More information to follow on what an employer can and cannot do as it relates to vaccinations.

Source: [www.ontario.ca](#)

Workplace Inspections

Inspections and enforcement at essential businesses in regional hot zones will increase to continue to protect essential workers while on the job. So far in 2021:

- There have been 19,500 COVID-related workplace inspections and investigations
- Over 450 COVID-19 related tickets have been issued
- Over 14,446 OHS orders have been issued
- Inspectors have stopped unsafe work related to COVID-19 a total of 24 times

Source: [www.ontario.ca](#)

Have a
Happy and Safe
March Break
Stay-cation!