

Government of Ontario passes Bill 284, the Putting Workers First Act

Under this new legislation, part-time and full-time employees who do not already receive paid sick days will now be eligible for **3 paid days of emergency leave**, which can be claimed for reasons related to COVID-19.

This program has been dubbed the Ontario COVID-19 Worker Income Protection Benefit Program. It will end on **September 25th, 2021**. Payments are retroactive to **April 19th, 2021**.

The 3 days of paid leave are only available to employees who:

- Are covered by the Employment Standards Act (independent contractors or federally regulated employees **do not qualify**)
- Do **not** already receive paid sick time through their employer. Employers will be required to fill out and sign an attestation form when applying for reimbursement with the WSIB

Details for Employers:

- **Employers will be required to pay employees up to \$200 per day for up to 3 days off**
- If the employee earns **less than \$200 per day**, the employer will only be eligible for a reimbursement of the employee's **regular rate of pay**
- **Employers will be reimbursed by the province through WSIB**
- Eligible employers would need to make their application for reimbursement within 120 days of the paid leave
- Employees are not required to provide a sick note, and the sick days do not have to be taken consecutively

Contact us today to book a call about Bill 284!

Barrie: 705-719-7962

Toronto: 416-987-4163

Sources: ontario.ca, ctvnews.ca, cbcnews.ca



Check out our [new blog](#) on how to handle a positive COVID-19 case in your workplace.

Toronto and Peel Region to require all businesses with 5 or more work-acquired COVID-19 cases to shut down for 10 days

Under the Section 22 Class Order to address workplace COVID-19 risk, Peel Region and Toronto will now require workplaces with five or more recent coronavirus cases to shut down for 10 days, in most instances.

The Peel Region Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Lawrence Loh, and Toronto's Chief Medical Officer, Eileen de Villa, both announced that beginning Friday, April 23d, 2021, **any business with five or more known COVID-19 cases occurring within a span of 14 days or fewer**, where cases "could have reasonably acquired their infection at work," or no other source of transmission can be identified, **will have to shut down for 10 days**, and **all affected employees must self-isolate**. Employees are not permitted to work in any other workplace.

Sources: ctvnews.ca, toronto.ca, peelregion.ca

COVID-19 Vaccine Updates

- The week of May 24th, Ontarians aged 18 and over will be eligible to book through the [provincial booking system](#)
- Adults aged 40 and over in 2021 are eligible for vaccination at **participating pharmacies**. Visit covid-19.ontario.ca/vaccine-locations to find a participating pharmacy and contact the pharmacy
- Individuals aged 18 and over are eligible for vaccination through mobile teams and pop-up clinics in targeted hot spots. Find out if you live in a hot spot community by visiting Ontario's website for a list of the [114 high-risk neighbourhoods](#)
- Effective Thursday, April 29th, 2021, **child care workers in licensed child care settings** will be eligible to book an appointment through the Provincial Vaccine Booking Line number at 1-833-943-3900 or directly through public health units that use their own booking system.

Source: news.ontario.ca



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