

Released October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020

## Just In: Prime Minister and Ontario Premier Announcements Today

### Premier Ford's Announcement

This afternoon, the Ontario government imposed modified Stage 2 restrictions in Toronto, Peel Region and Ottawa for a period of 28 days to help slow the spread of COVID-19.

Effective tomorrow, Saturday, October 10<sup>th</sup>, the following restrictions will come into effect:

- Indoor dining at restaurants and bars will be prohibited (outdoor dining, takeout and delivery can continue)
- Indoor gyms and fitness centers will be closed
- Cinemas, theaters, casinos, performance arts and racing venues will be closed
- Personal care services where masks must be removed are prohibited
- Sports games and scrimmages are prohibited
- Wedding receptions will be limited to 10 people indoors or 25 people outdoors

The government is urging people in those areas to leave their homes only for essential purposes. If trends continue, these restrictions could expand to other areas in the province.

Source: [www.cbcnews.ca](http://www.cbcnews.ca)

### Prime Minister Trudeau's Announcement

In a press conference this afternoon, the Federal government announced additional financial relief measures to help businesses through the second wave of COVID-19. Please see below for the key announcements:

#### Canada Recovery Benefits (CRB), (CRSB) & (CRCB)

- Canadians are now able to access Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit and the Canada Recovery Caregiver Benefit
- Applications for the Canada Recovery Benefit, which has replaced CERB, will open on October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020

#### Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy (CERS)

- Replaces the Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance program
- Will provide support for businesses directly, not through landlords
- For businesses who have seen their revenue drop, the new subsidy can support up to 65% of eligible expenses, and up to 90% for businesses temporarily shut down by a mandatory public health order

#### Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS)

- Extended until June 2021

#### Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA)

- Enhancing CEBA to make it possible for businesses that are already eligible to obtain an additional loan of \$20,000 based on their needs

Source: [www.cbcnews.ca](http://www.cbcnews.ca)

Employees should wear masks in enclosed, indoor work spaces, even when physical distancing and plexiglass barriers are present.



On Monday, October 5<sup>th</sup>, the CDC issued an update to their guidance on how COVID-19 spreads to include information about the potential for airborne spread of COVID-19.

Some reports show that pathogens that are mainly transmitted through close contact can sometimes also be spread via airborne transmission under special circumstances such as poorly ventilated and enclosed spaces where an infectious person is producing respiratory droplets for an extended time (greater than 30 minutes).

As a result, if an employee is working in an enclosed, indoor space, it is recommended that they wear a mask even when physical distancing and plexiglass barriers are present in order to reduce the risk of airborne transmission.

Source: [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)

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## Not Following Self-Isolation Requirements Could Lead to Significant Fines

Medical Officers of Health in a number of counties and districts across the GTA have issued class orders under Section 22 of the *Health Protection and Promotion Act* to enforce COVID-19 self-isolation requirements. These orders enable the respective Health Units to enforce existing self-isolation requirements for all individuals who have been advised to do so in a quick and efficient manner, reducing delays that could significantly increase the risk to the health and safety of others. Individuals who fail to comply with these orders may be subject to significant fines.

We recommend that you continue to stay informed and watch for new notices and orders issued by your local public health department.

Effective October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020, the Simcoe Muskoka Medical Officer of Health issued an order that will remain in effect until the Medical Officer of Health declares it no longer needed. Individuals who fail to comply with the order may be liable for a fine of up to \$5,000 for every day or part of each day on which the offence occurs or continues. **The order applies to any person living or present in the County of Simcoe and District of Muskoka who:**

- Is identified as a person diagnosed with COVID-19,
- Has the signs and symptoms of COVID-19, has been tested for COVID-19 and is awaiting results of their test,
- Otherwise has reasonable grounds to believe they have one or more symptoms of COVID-19, or
- Is a close contact of a person identified as a person diagnosed with COVID-19.
  - Close contact means being within two meters of an infected person for at least 15 minutes without adequate PPE. Adequate PPE is using both medical grade surgical/procedural mask and protective eyewear. In this case, cloth face coverings are not adequate PPE.

### So, what does this mean?

- Individuals who think they may have symptoms of COVID-19 must go home to self-isolate immediately, complete the online assessment tool and if indicated by the tool, get tested and continue to self-isolate at home for 10 days or until their test result is negative.
- Individuals who have been identified as a close contact with someone with COVID-19 must go home to self-isolate immediately and they must continue to self-isolate for 14 days even if they do not have symptoms.

*Have questions about a specific employee or situation? Contact a member of our team to discuss your options or sign up for our upcoming Zoom webinar!*

Source: [www.simcoemuskokahealth.org](http://www.simcoemuskokahealth.org)

Register Today

**HR Performance & Results presents...**

**Zoom Webinar on:**

**COVID-19 Positive, Contact Tracing & the Return to Work Process**

**Date:** Wednesday, October 14, 2020

**Time:** 8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

**Price:** HRPAR Clients – Free! | Non-Clients - \$25.00 (+HST)

**Register:** <https://hrpar.ca/events-calendar/>

Your employee has tested positive for COVID-19...now what? This session will provide participants with effective strategies to implement contact tracing in your workplace, employer reporting obligations for positive cases of COVID-19 and return to work options that will ensure your employees can safely return to work.

**Check out our [Events Calendar](#) for a list of programs! offered this Fall!**



The team at HR Performance & Results would like to wish everyone a happy and healthy Thanksgiving weekend.

Although we may be physically apart, it is important that we stay connected with loved ones and offer support to those in need within our communities. We'll get through this together.