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JUST IN: Government Announces Colour-Coded Zones for Ontario Regions Effective February 16, 2021
Stay-at-home order will be lifted as most regions in Ontario return to the colour-coded zone system

Effective February 16th, 2021, the stay-at-home order will be lifted in 28 regions in Ontario, with the exception of Toronto, Peel, and York, which will be lifted on February 22nd, 2021. Regions set to re-open on February 16th, 2021, will enter the colour-coded zone at a level that reflects the regional COVID-19 case count at that time.

For a full list of Ontario regions and their designated zones effective February 16th, [Click Here](#).

Changes to Colour-Coded Zones

The Ontario government has made several amendments to the rules governing how businesses are permitted to operate upon reopening.

- All open businesses must develop a written COVID-19 safety plan, with some businesses required to post it in a conspicuous location in the workplace and others required only to have it available upon request
- Businesses must also ensure that individuals “*maintain at least two metres of physical distance and wear face covering[s] when physical distancing is not possible*”
- Businesses must also ensure that their screening protocols are in compliance with any advice, recommendations and instructions issued by the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health or other public health official

If retailers open under the new Grey Zone restrictions, they must:

- Publicly post the capacity limit;
- Implement passive screening for patrons (except indoor malls, where active screening is required);
- Ensure physical distancing of at least two metres is maintained and that patrons wear face coverings;
- If the store is within a shopping mall, ensure there is no loitering; and
- Create a COVID-19 safety plan and post it in a conspicuous location in the workplace.

Businesses in the Grey Zone continue to be under mandatory work-from-home measures and are required to ensure that employees work remotely unless the nature of their work necessitates on-site workplace attendance.

Emergency Break

In addition to these framework changes, the government has also introduced an “emergency brake” system. This brake empowers the Chief Medical Officer of Health, in consultation with the local medical officer of health, to advise immediately moving a region back into **Grey-Lockdown** if rapid acceleration in COVID-19 transmission occurs or Ontario’s health care system risks being overwhelmed.

Source: www.ontario.ca



**March Break has been postponed
 until April 12th – April 16th, 2021**

