

# Memo

To: Municipalities and Business Community

From: Dr. Kieran Moore, Medical Officer of Health at KFL&A Public Health

Date: Tuesday, December 22, 2020

**Re: Provincewide Shutdown**

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A Provincewide Shutdown will go into effect as of Saturday, December 26, 2020, at 12:01 am. and will remain in effect until Saturday, January 23, 2021 for the KFL&A Region.

The Chief Medical Officer of Health has provided advice to Ontarians during the provincewide shutdown, including recommendations to:

- Stay home to the fullest extent possible.
- Limit close contact to your household (the people you live with).
- Do not attend public events or social gatherings with anyone outside of your household.
  - Families should not visit any other household or allow visitors in their homes.
  - Individuals who live alone and single parents may consider having exclusive, close contact with another household to help reduce the negative impacts of social isolation.
  - Virtual gatherings or events are the safest way to visit or recognize occasions with people outside your household, especially during the holiday season.
- Limit trips outside of the home only for essential purposes (e.g., health care, medication, groceries, and child care).
- Limit travel outside the region and out of the province to only essential purposes.
- Exercise alone or with people in your household.
- Work remotely in all industries to the greatest extent possible.
- Maintain 2 metres of physical distancing from everyone outside of your household.
- Wear a face covering indoors; outdoors if physical distancing cannot be maintained; or if wearing one is required.

Key elements of the Provincewide Shutdown are outlined in the [Ministry's Provincewide Shutdown slide deck](#) that outlines general public health measures and sector-specific restrictions for businesses, organizations and facilities. There are new and specific measures that come with the Provincial Shutdown. All measures are listed in [Government of Ontario amended O. Reg. 82/20 Rules for Areas in Stage 1](#) in the Reopening Ontario Act, 2020. Owners and operators of businesses, organizations, and facilities are strongly encouraged to carefully review the regulation and determine which sections apply to their sector.

General public health measures for all businesses, organizations, and facilities that are permitted to operate during the Provincewide Shutdown must comply with the advice, recommendations, and instructions of public health officials.

- Physical distancing and line management
  - Businesses or places must not permit patrons to line up inside, or to congregate outside unless maintaining a physical distance of at least 2 metres and wearing a face covering.
- Screening
  - Businesses and organizations must comply with recommendations issued by the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health on screening individuals, including screen any workers or essential visitors entering the work environment.
- Personal protective equipment (PPE) including eye protection
  - PPE that provides protection of the eyes, nose, and mouth, is required if a worker is required to come within 2 metres of another person who is not wearing a face covering and not separated by plexiglass or some impermeable barrier.
- Capacity limits
  - Businesses or facilities must limit capacity so that every member of the public is able to maintain 2 metres of physical distancing from every other person and limit the number of people occupying any room that is open to the public to 50% capacity of the particular room. All businesses or facilities that engage in retail sales to the public must post a sign in a location visible to the public that states the maximum capacity they are permitted to operate under.
- Cleaning and disinfection
  - Businesses or places that are open shall ensure that equipment, washrooms, locker rooms, change rooms, showers that are accessible to the public are cleaned and disinfected as frequently as is necessary to maintain a sanitary condition.

- Face coverings
  - Businesses or organizations must ensure that masks or face coverings are worn by any person (including members of the public and workers) in the indoor area of the business or organization, with limited exceptions.
- Safety plan
  - Requirement for all businesses open to prepare and make available a [COVID-19 safety plan](#).

Additional details on the public health measures for specific activities are also outlined in the [Ministry's Provincewide Shutdown slide deck](#), including:

- Organized public events; social gatherings; religious services rites and ceremonies; post-secondary institutions; and day camps.
  - Events and gatherings
  - Weddings, funerals and other religious services, rites, and ceremonies
  - Post-secondary institutions
  - Day camps for children
- Approach in schools and child care.
  - Schools - elementary schools will be closed, and students will participate in remote learning until January 11, 2021. For secondary school students, remote learning will continue until January 24, 2021 with a return to in-person classes on January 25, 2021.
  - Child care centres will remain open to support working parents; no school aged children between January 4 to January 8, 2021. Emergency child care possibly available.
- Businesses, organizations, and services permitted to open and sector-specific public health and workplace safety measures.
  - Supply chain
  - Meeting or event space
  - Short-term rentals
  - Restaurants, bars, and other food or drink establishments
  - Driving instruction
  - Retailers
  - Services
  - Financial services
  - Real-estate (including pre-sale construction)
  - Telecommunications and IT infrastructure/service providers
  - Maintenance
  - Transportation services

- Manufacturing
- Agriculture and food production
- Construction
- Resources and energy
- Community services
- Facilities for indoor or outdoor sports and recreational fitness activities
- Outdoor recreational amenities
- Research
- Health care and social services
- Media industries
- Entertainment
- Libraries
- Museums and cultural amenities
- Horse racing
- Night clubs and strip clubs
- Zoos and aquariums
- Amusement parks and water parks
- Bathhouses and sex clubs
- Tour and guide services
- Motorsports
- Personal care services
- Casinos, bingo halls, and gaming establishments

For detailed information on the specific measures businesses, organizations, and facilities must follow review [Ministry's Provincewide Shutdown slide deck](#) and the [Government of Ontario amended O. Reg. 82/20 Rules for Areas in Stage 1](#) in the Reopening Ontario Act, 2020. KFL&A Public Health will continue to work closely with area businesses, organizations, and facilities to provide support and answer questions.

If you have questions about what will be open or impacts to your business or employment, call the Stop the Spread Business Information Line at 1-888-444-3659. For more information or if you have questions, please visit the COVID-19 section on our [agency's website](#) or call KFL&A Public Health at 613-549-1232 or 1-800-267-7875.