

Provincial Closures and Re-Opening Announcements

Province of Ontario State of Emergency and Related Closures

On March 17, 2020, the Province declared a provincial State of Emergency under the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act related to the coronavirus outbreak and mandated the closure of the following programs and services:

- facilities providing indoor recreational programs;
- public libraries;
- private schools as defined in the Education Act;
- licensed child care centres;
- bars and restaurants, except to the extent that such facilities provide takeout food and delivery;
- theatres including those offering live performances of music, dance, and other art forms, as well as cinemas that show movies; and
- concert venues.

The provincial declaration of emergency was extended twice by the provincial Cabinet (on March 31, 2020 and April 11, 2020) and again by the legislature on April 14, 2020. On May 12, 2020, the Legislature voted to extend the State of Emergency until June 2, 2020.

On March 28, 2020, the Province announced a prohibition on organized public events and social gatherings of more than five people, with limited exemptions for private households with five people or more, operating child care centres supporting frontline workers and first responders, and funerals.

On March 30, 2020, the Province announced the closure all outdoor recreational amenities, such as sports fields and playgrounds for the duration of the declared emergency. Noting, Toronto's Medical Officer of Health has authority to mandate closures within the City

Easing of Restrictions

Since early May, the Province has also taken gradual action to lift restrictions in stages.

May 1, 2020 – Announced that certain businesses would be permitted to open beginning Monday May 4th, including:

- Garden centres and nurseries with curbside pick-up and delivery only.
- Lawn care and landscaping.
- Additional essential construction projects that include:
 - shipping and logistics;
 - broadband, telecommunications, and digital infrastructure;
 - any other project that supports the improved delivery of goods and services;
 - municipal projects;

- colleges and universities;
- child care centres;
- schools; and
- site preparation, excavation, and servicing for institutional, commercial, industrial and residential development;
- Automatic and self-serve car washes;
- Auto dealerships, open by appointment only;
- Golf courses, to prepare their courses for the upcoming season, but not open to the public; and
- Marinas, to begin preparations for the recreational boating season, but not open to the public.

May 6, 2020 – Announced further easing of restrictions as follows:

- Allowing below-grade multi-unit residential construction projects to begin and existing above-grade projects to continue

As of May 8, 2020 – garden centres and nurseries open for in-store purchases.

As of May 9, 2020 – Hardware and safety supply stores open for in-store purchases.

As of May 11, 2020 – all retail stores with a street entrance open for curbside pickup.

May 14, 2020 – Announced that Stage 1 of Ontario's Reopening Framework is expected to begin on Tuesday, May 19, 2020, and will include:

- Retail services that are not in shopping malls and have separate street-front entrances with measures in place that can enable physical distancing
- Seasonal businesses and recreational activities for individual or single competitors, including training and sport competitions conducted by a recognized national or provincial sport organization. This includes indoor and outdoor non-team sport competitions that can be played while maintaining physical distancing and without spectators.
- Animal services, specifically pet care services, such as grooming and training, and regular veterinary appointments.
- Indoor and outdoor household services that can follow public health guidelines, such as housekeepers, cooks, cleaning and maintenance.
- Lifting essential workplace limits on construction.
- Allowing certain health and medical services to resume, such as in-person counselling and scheduled surgeries based on the ability to meet pre-specified conditions

May 16, 2020 – Amended the restriction on gatherings to allow for drive-in religious gatherings, under certain conditions to prevent the spread of COVID-19. The conditions include keeping vehicles two metres or more apart, only members of the same household can be in one vehicle, people will not be able to leave their vehicles, and no more than five people can conduct the service at one time from outside a motor vehicle and they must stay at least two metres apart.

May 19, 2020 - Permitted the reopening of some outdoor recreational amenities, including outdoor sports facilities and multi-use fields, off-leash dog areas, and outdoor picnic sites, benches and shelters in parks and recreational areas, effective immediately. Outdoor playgrounds, play structures and equipment, fitness equipment, public swimming pools, splash pads and similar outdoor water facilities will remain closed until later stages of the province's reopening plan.

May 19, 2020 – Announced closure of schools for the rest of this school year and cancellation of overnight summer camps in 2020. The Province is planning for the reopening of schools for the 2020-21 school year, gradual reopening of child care as part of Stage 2 of the recovery, and the opening of summer day camps subject to the continuing progress in trends of key public health indicators.