

## COVID-19 CLASS ORDER FOR SELF-ISOLATION

### What is a COVID-19 class order?

The "class order" directs people to stay home and self-isolate until they are not contagious. The purpose is to reduce the spread of COVID-19, and protect the health of everyone in Toronto.

### Can Toronto Public Health issue a class order, and how long will it be in effect?

The provincial *Health Protection & Promotion Act* allows the Medical Officer of Health to issue a "class order." The order was issued on April 1, 2020, and is in effect until the Medical Officer of Health declares it is no longer needed.

### Who does the class order apply to?

The class order is directed to:

- People with [symptoms of COVID-19](#).
- People who tested positive for COVID-19.
- People in recent close contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19. This includes caregivers and household members.

### How long must people self-isolate for?

Self-isolation is usually for 14 days from the day the person's [symptoms](#) began (e.g. fever, cough, sore throat). Sometimes people are asked to stay home longer, depending on their symptoms and test results.

### Can some people be exempted from the class order?

Some essential service workers, who are close contacts with no symptoms may be permitted to work. However, they must self-isolate at home when they are not working or travelling to/from work. Exceptions may also be made for people leaving domestic violence. Toronto Public Health will review exceptions for each situation.

People can still go for medical appointments when they are in self-isolation. Contact Toronto Public Health at 416-338-7600 for instructions before going to a medical clinic or hospital.

### How does self-isolation work?

Self-isolation means staying at home or in an isolation facility. Do not go outside or have visitors. Avoid close contact with others. Shop online or have someone pick up supplies for you. If you need support with groceries, prescriptions or other services, please call Toronto Public Health at 416-338-7600 for advice.

Keep as much distance as possible from the people you live with. Use a separate bathroom and bedroom, if you have one. When sharing rooms, open windows for good airflow. See [how to self-isolate](#).

People who are homeless, do not have adequate housing, or feel unsafe at home will be provided temporary shelter.

**What happens if someone does not self-isolate?**

A person who ignores the class order to self-isolate can be charged and fined up to \$5,000 per day. Police may be called to assist.

**Can someone legally challenge the class order?**

The person listed in the class order can challenge it by appealing to the [Health Services Appeal and Review Board](http://www.hsarb.on.ca/scripts/english/contact.asp): <http://www.hsarb.on.ca/scripts/english/contact.asp>.

**What do I need to know about the federal order under the *Quarantine Act*?**

The federal quarantine order applies to all travellers entering Canada, effective March 25, 2020. It requires all travellers to self-quarantine for 14 days. More information is available [here](#).

In some cases, people who must quarantine under the federal order may also be subject to the order issued by Toronto's Medical Officer of Health (for example, people who are diagnosed with COVID-19 and have also recently returned from travel).

**More Information**

For a health assessment, call your doctor's office or Telehealth Ontario at 1-866-797-0000. For more information about the class order, call Toronto Public Health at 416-338-7600.