

# Government puts Toronto and Peel Region into lockdown

November 23, 2020

Premier Doug Ford announced on November 20, 2020 that the City of Toronto and Peel Region would enter the “lockdown” level of the province’s COVID-19 response framework. A copy of the government’s press release is available [here](#). The Regulation for the lockdown measures in Toronto and Peel is posted [here](#).

## When does the “lockdown” begin in Toronto and Peel and how long will it last?

The “lockdown” began at 12:01 AM on November 23, 2020 and will continue until at least December 21, 2020.

## Can my business in Toronto or Peel remain open to the public?

The Regulation sets out a number of operating restrictions for businesses operating in the City of Toronto and/or Peel Region. With the exception of supermarkets/grocery stores, convenience stores, discount and big box retailers selling groceries, hardware stores, safety supply stores, pharmacies and stores that sell liquor (including beer, wine and spirits), all retailers must limit their operations to curbside pick-up or delivery. Further, restaurants will be limited to take out, drive-through or delivery service.

## For those businesses in Toronto and Peel that can remain open to the public, what conditions must be satisfied?

For those businesses that remain open to the public, they must satisfy a number of conditions, including the following (we have indicated which of these obligations are “existing” or “new”):

- Limit the number of persons occupying the business so that attendees maintain a physical distance of at least two metres from every other person in the business or facility (existing obligation);
- Limit the number of persons occupying any room that is open to the public – they must not exceed 50% of the capacity of the particular room (new obligation);
- Ensure that any person in the indoor area of the business premises or any person that is in a vehicle that is

operating as part of the business, wears a mask or face covering (subject to various exceptions, including if a person has a medical condition that inhibits the person's ability to wear a mask or face covering) (existing obligation);

- Prepare and make available a safety plan by no later than November 30, 2020 that describes the measures and procedures which have been implemented or will be implemented in the business to reduce the transmission risk of COVID-19 (new obligation);
- Ensure that any washrooms, locker rooms, etc. and any equipment that is provided for the use of members of the public is cleaned and disinfected as frequently as is necessary to maintain a sanitary condition (new obligation);
- Operate the business or organization in compliance with the advice, recommendations and instructions of public health officials, including any advice, recommendations or instructions on physical distancing, cleaning or disinfecting (existing obligation);
- Conduct screening as in compliance with the advice, recommendations and instructions issued by the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health on screening individuals (existing obligation).

## Am I required to have a “safety plan”? What is it?

Yes, a significant new legal requirement that affects all businesses is the requirement to prepare and post a “safety plan.” This is a new obligation for most employers. Regulation 654/20 now requires as follows:

- The safety plan shall describe the measures and procedures which have been implemented or will be implemented in the business to reduce the transmission risk of COVID-19;
- The safety plan shall describe how the requirements of Regulation 654/20 will be implemented in the location including by screening, physical distancing, masks or face coverings, cleaning and disinfecting of surfaces and objects, and the wearing of personal protective equipment;
- The safety plan shall be in writing and shall be made available to any person for review on request; and
- The person responsible for the business shall ensure that a copy of the safety plan is posted in a conspicuous place where it is most likely to come to the attention of individuals working in or attending the business.

## What are the fines for non-compliance?

In its press release, the government announced its intention to amend the law to allow for a ticket to be issued for any contravention of a COVID-19 order issued by a medical officer of health. In addition, the government indicated that it would be asking the Chief Justice of the Ontario Court of Justice to establish a set fine to be attached to any ticket for violating an order made by a local medical officer of health related to COVID-19.

## What is the status of the areas outside of Toronto and Peel Region?

Stage 1 (Lockdown)	Toronto Peel Region
Stage 2 (Red Zone)	City of Hamilton Durham Regional Health Unit Halton Regional Health Unit Waterloo Health Unit York Regional Health Unit
Stage 3 (Green Zone)	The District of Algoma Health Unit Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit Hastings and Prince Edward Counties Health Unit Lambton Health Unit Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit Northwestern Health Unit Porcupine Health Unit Renfrew County and District Health Unit Timiskaming Health Unit
Stage 3 (Yellow Zone)	Chatham-Kent Health Unit The Eastern Ontario Health Unit Grey Bruce Health Unit Haldimand-Norfolk Health Unit Kingston, Frontenac and Lennox and Addington Health Unit Middlesex-London Health Unit Peterborough County — City Health Unit Sudbury and District Health Unit Thunder Bay District Health Unit
Stage 3 (Orange Zone)	Brant County Health Unit City of Ottawa Health Unit Huron Perth Health Unit Niagara Regional Area Health Unit Oxford Elgin St. Thomas Health Unit Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Health Unit Windsor-Essex County Health Unit

## Your Key Contacts



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