

## Federal and Provincial Updates – April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Please find attached the updates for April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Of particular note is:

- Automotive repair and service has been added to the essential service list in Quebec
- Canada announced new support programs for small and medium-sized businesses.
- Manitoba is requiring 14 day self-isolation for anyone entering into Manitoba, and restricting travel into Northern Manitoba and remote communities.
- New Brunswick announced a new public emergency leave for employees.

### Federal Updates

The Government of Canada is advising that all persons avoid all non-essential travel outside of Canada. The risk level is Level 3 for all countries. The risk level is level 4 for cruise ships. For anyone who travels abroad, the Government of Canada's website states that upon return to Canada, they will need to self-isolate for 14 days after they return. Effective 12:00am on March 26, 2020, this will, in general, become a mandatory legal requirement.

In terms of EI, eligible workers can apply for up to 15 weeks of employment insurance if they cannot work for medical reasons such as being quarantined. Normally, a worker who qualifies for EI benefits has a one-week waiting period before payments start, however the government is eliminating the waiting period entirely for people quarantined due to COVID-19. Normally a medical certificate is required to obtain EI benefits but the government is waiving the note for patients required to go into quarantine by law or by a public-health official. People who are asked to self-isolate by their employers when public-health officials recommend it can also qualify.

The exact documentation required is still evolving.

The new dedicated toll-free phone numbers for individuals who are in quarantine and seeking to waive the one-week EI sickness benefits waiting period are:

- Telephone: 1-833-381-2725 (toll-free)
- Teletypewriter (TTY): 1-800-529-3742

On April 17, 2020, Canada announced new measures to support businesses, including:

- Financing support to small and medium-sized businesses that are unable to access the government's existing COVID-19 support measures, through Canada's Regional Development Agencies.
- Support rural businesses and communities, including by providing them with much-needed access to capital through the Community Futures Network.
- A COVID-19 Emergency Support Fund for Cultural, Heritage and Sport Organizations to help address the financial needs of affected organizations within these sectors so they can continue to support artists and athletes.
- Funding to assist innovative, early-stage companies that are unable to access existing COVID-19 business support, through the National Research Council of Canada's Industrial Research Assistance Program.

- Funding in support for Futurpreneur Canada to continue to support young entrepreneurs across Canada who are facing challenges due to COVID-19. The funding will allow Futurpreneur Canada to provide payment relief for its clients for up to 12 months.
- Funding to the governments of Alberta, Saskatchewan, and British Columbia, and the Alberta Orphan Well Association, to clean up orphan and/or inactive oil and gas wells – creating thousands of jobs and having lasting environmental benefits.
- Funding to create a new proposed Emissions Reduction Fund to reduce emissions in Canada’s oil and gas sector, with a focus on methane. This fund will provide primarily repayable contributions to conventional and offshore oil and gas firms to support their investments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- Expanding eligibility for the new Business Credit Availability Program announced on March 13, 2020. The support will be available to medium-sized businesses with larger financing needs, beginning with companies in Canada’s energy sector.

On April 16, 2020, Canada announced that it was:

- Expanding the Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA) to businesses that paid between \$20,000 and \$1.5 million in total payroll in 2019, replacing the previous one of between \$50,000 and \$1 million.
- Intending to introduce the Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance (CECRA) for small businesses. The program will seek to provide loans, including forgivable loans, to commercial property owners who in turn will lower or forgo the rent of small businesses for the months of April (retroactive), May, and June. Implementation of the program will require a partnership between the federal government and provincial and territorial governments, which are responsible for property owner-tenant relationships.

On April 15, 2020, Canada expanded the eligibility requirements for the Canada Emergency Response Benefit to:

- Allow people to earn up to \$1,000 per month while collecting the CERB.
- Extend the CERB to seasonal workers who have exhausted their EI regular benefits and are unable to undertake their regular seasonal work as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak.
- Extend the CERB to workers who have recently exhausted their EI regular benefits and are unable to find a job or return to work because of COVID-19.

These changes will be retroactive to March 15, 2020 .

Canada also announced a new transfer to provinces and territories to cost-share a temporary top-up for their low-income essential workers (those who earn less than \$2,500 per month).

Canada also announced that it will provide immediate, temporary relief to sponsors of federally regulated, defined benefit pension plans. This relief will be in the form of a moratorium, through the remainder of 2020, on solvency payment requirements for defined benefit plans.

On April 11, 2020, the new Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) was officially passed into law. Of particular note is that the obligation on employers to use “best efforts” to top up the remaining 25% of an employee’s salary in previous announcements was not reflected in the legislation. It is also now confirmed that the threshold for qualification in terms of revenue drop in March 2020 is lowered so that

entities with a monthly revenue drop of 15% will qualify for that period. The threshold remains at 30% for the subsequent months. For an employer to apply for a subsidy in respect of an employee, the employee must be employed in Canada, and not be off work without pay for 14 or more consecutive days per claim period. The weekly amount of the subsidy will be the greater of 75% of wages and salary paid in respect of the week to a maximum of \$847 and 75% of pre-crisis weekly remuneration (or whatever portion thereof is paid to the employee), to a maximum of \$847. For further details, please see: <https://www.blg.com/en/insights/2020/04/canada-emergency-wage-subsidy-summary-and-practical-guide-for-employers>.

On March 27, 2020, the Prime Minister announced new measures to support small businesses:

- Implementing a wage subsidy for qualifying businesses to 75%, for up to 3 months, retroactive to March 15, 2020. Further details were subsequently announced.
- Allow businesses, including self-employed individuals, to defer all Goods and Services Tax/Harmonized Sales Tax (GST/HST) payments until June, as well as customs duties owed for imports.
- The Canada Emergency Business Account to provide up to \$25 billion to eligible financial institutions so they can provide interest-free loans to small businesses.
- The Small and Medium-sized Enterprise Loan and Guarantee program that will enable up to \$40 billion in lending, supported through Export Development Canada and Business Development Bank.

On March 25, the *COVID-19 Emergency Response Act* received Royal Assent. The key financial assistance offered by the legislation includes:

- Boosting Canada Child Benefit payments by an extra \$300 per child.
- A special top-up payment under the Goods and Services Tax (GST) credit for individuals and families with low and modest incomes
- A Canada Emergency Response Benefit providing a taxable benefit of \$2,000 a month for up to 4 months to support workers who lose their income as of result of the COVID-19 pandemic.
  - The benefit covers Canadians who have lost their job, are sick, quarantined, or taking care of someone who is sick with COVID-19, as well as working parents who must stay home without pay to care for children who are sick or at home because of school and daycare closures.
  - Workers who are still employed, but are not receiving income because of disruptions to their work situation related to COVID-19, would also qualify for the CERB.
  - The CERB is available to Canadian workers affected by the current situation whether or not they are eligible for Employment Insurance (EI).
- A 6-month moratorium on the repayment of Canada Student Loans in the *Canada Student Financial Assistance Act*, the *Canada Student Loans Act*, and the *Apprenticeship Loans Act*.
- A temporary wage subsidy for a period of three months. Eligible employers would include small businesses (including co-operative corporations) eligible for the small business deduction, unincorporated employers, certain partnerships, non-profit organizations and charities.
- Reducing required minimum withdrawals from Registered Retirement Income Funds by 25 per cent for 2020.

- COVID-19 Response Fund that would provide one-time funding of \$500 million through the Canada Health Transfer for their critical health care system needs and to support mitigation efforts as needed to support provinces and territories.
- The Government's authority to make regulations to address any future shortages of therapeutic products, including drugs and medical devices.
- Temporarily providing the Minister of Finance with more flexibility to determine BDC's capital limit, allowing it to provide further financial support to Canadian businesses when they need it.
- Temporarily providing the Minister of Finance with more flexibility in setting EDC's capital and liability limits – as well as the Canada Account limit – and expanding EDC's ability to engage in domestic financial transactions so that it can more effectively deliver financial and credit insurance support to affected Canadian businesses.
- Amending the *Farm Credit Canada (FCC) Act* to temporarily provide the Minister of Finance with the flexibility to set the limit on the amounts that may be paid by the Minister of Finance to FCC out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund to ensure continued availability of credit to businesses in the agriculture and agri-food sector.
- Enhancing the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation's (CMHC) access to capital, and increasing its insurance-in-force and guarantees-in-force legislative limits.
- Providing authority to a federal minister to requisition funds from the Consolidated Revenue Fund with the concurrence of the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Health to support federal efforts to prevent or control the spread of COVID-19.
- Providing the Minister of Finance with flexibility to respond expeditiously to COVID-19 developments, by amending the *Financial Administration Act (FAA)* to temporarily remove the requirement for the Minister of Finance to receive Governor in Council's authorization in order to use emergency powers.
- Providing the Minister of Finance with the flexibility to increase the Canada Deposit Insurance Corporation's deposit insurance limit beyond its current level of \$100,000.

The Government of Canada has also announced that it will begin to enforce the 14-day quarantines on travellers returning to Canada with potential fines or arrests.

On March 23, the Federal announcement focused on repatriation flights.

On March 20, the border between the US and Canada was closed at midnight, and irregular migrants are to be turned back if they appear at the border. The Government of Canada also announced its plan to mobilize industry to help companies that are already making things like masks, ventilators and hand sanitizer to massively scale up production, and to provide support for those who want to re-tool their manufacturing facilities to contribute to fighting COVID-19. The Autoparts Manufacturers Association has reached out to the government ask how they can help, such as shifting autoparts to medical supplies manufacturing.

On March 19, the Government of Canada suspended passport services until further notice, with some exceptions, including if the individual

- has a serious illness
- must tend to the serious illness or death of someone the individual knows
- will have financial problems from the loss of a job or business

- must travel for humanitarian reasons

On March 18, Canada and the United States closed their shared border to non-essential travel, and Canada is closing its border to all travellers except Canadian citizens, Canadian permanent residents, Americans, flight crew members, diplomats and some immediate family members of Canadians.

The federal government also announced a stimulus package in the morning of March 18, 2020. The measures are outlined at a high-level in a [Department of Finance “news release”](#). Of particular note:

1. The one-week waiting period for those individuals in imposed quarantine that claim Employment Insurance (EI) sickness benefits, and medical certifications for such sickness benefits, is waived (effective March 15, 2020).
2. A new “Emergency Care Benefit” was announced. It will provide up to \$900 bi-weekly, for up to 15 weeks, to provide income support to: workers, including the self-employed, who are quarantined or sick with COVID-19 but do not qualify for EI sickness benefits; workers, including the self-employed, who are taking care of a family member who is sick with COVID-19, such as an elderly parent, but do not qualify for EI sickness benefits; or parents with children who require care or supervision due to school closures, and are unable to earn employment income, irrespective of whether they qualify for EI or not.
3. For Canadians who lose their jobs or face reduced hours as a result of COVID's impact, the federal government is: introducing an “Emergency Support Benefit” to provide up to \$5.0 billion in support to workers who are not eligible for EI and who are facing unemployment; and implementing the EI Work Sharing Program, which provides EI benefits to workers who agree to reduce their normal working hour as a result of developments beyond the control of their employers, by extending the eligibility of such agreements to 76 weeks, easing eligibility requirements, and streamlining the application process.
4. The government is also (non-EI related) proposing to provide “eligible small employers” a temporary wage subsidy for a period of three months. The subsidy will be equal to 10% of remuneration paid during that period, up to a maximum subsidy of \$1,375 per employee and \$25,000 per employer. Employers benefiting from this measure will include corporations eligible for the small business deduction, as well as non-profit organizations and charities.

In a national address in at around 11:00am (ET) on March 17, 2020, the Prime Minister, among other things, [indicated that he is looking to recall Parliament for a brief period to pass additional legislative measures, emphasized the importance of social distancing, and stated that a more fulsome support package for Canadian workers and businesses will be rolled out on Wednesday March 18, 2020.](#)

The Prime Minister [announced in the afternoon \(ET\) of March 16, 2020](#) that, effective March 18, 2020, the Canadian border will be closed to most foreign nationals with certain exceptions, with US foreign nationals being an exception. The Prime Minister also strongly encouraged Canadians to heed the recommendations that all Canadians avoid non-essential travel outside Canada until further notice, Canadian travellers return to Canada via commercial means while they remain available and all travellers to Canada self-isolate for 14 days upon entry, with exceptions for workers who are essential to the movement of goods and people.

## **Provincial Updates**

### **Alberta**

All publicly funded schools will remain open at this time, provided steps are taken to eliminate large congregations of students. No more than 250 people should be in the same room at any time. Additionally, it is recommended that sports and other extracurricular activities that involve physical contact be cancelled as an additional precaution.

<https://www.alberta.ca/release.cfm?xID=698095C2869CC-F664-6E12-2ADF3D4DC0E40808>

On March 13 it was announced that changes to the Employment Standards Code would be made which would allow employees to take 14 days of paid, job-protected leave if they are:

- required to self-isolate
- sick or caring for a loved one with COVID-19.

On March 15, it was announced that all K-12 schools and post-secondary institutions in Alberta would be closed indefinitely. All licenced childcare facilities, out-of-school care programs and preschools were to close immediately as well. Private child care providers are able to remain open, these unlicensed day homes can only care for up to six children, not including their own, at any one time. These arrangements are not monitored by the province.

#### *March 16*

On March 16, Calgary declared a state of local emergency. City-run fitness facilities and pools will be ordered to close. Businesses are required to keep their capacity to either less than half their capacity under fire code or fewer than 250 people, whichever is lower. Grocery stores, public transit, airports, shopping centres, pharmacies, big-box commercial retail, office buildings, shelters, care centres and casinos are exempt. Places of worship are no longer exempt from restrictions on mass gatherings. The Provincial Court of Alberta and Court of Queen's Bench are limiting operations. All long-term care and other continuing care facilities are advised to limit visitation to essential visitors only.

Red Deer has also declared a state of local emergency. All city-operated recreation and culture facilities are closed to the public.

Edmonton has also closed all city-operated leisure centres, recreational centres, ice arenas and libraries, and YMCA's fitness and community centres. Edmonton buses will run on a Saturday schedule seven times a week starting Tuesday.

#### *March 17*

On March 17, Alberta declared a state of emergency under the *Public Health Act*. Measures that are effective immediately include:

- Mass gatherings are limited to no more than 50 attendees, including places of worship, funerals and weddings
- Grocery stores, shopping centres, health care facilities, airports and other essential services are not included

- Albertans are prohibited from attending public recreation facilities and private entertainment facilities, including gyms, swimming pools, arenas, science centres, museums, art galleries, libraries, community centres, children's play centres, casinos, racing entertainment centres and bingo halls
- The prohibition also extends to attending bars and nightclubs, where minors are prohibited by law
- Sit-down restaurants, cafés, coffee shops, food courts and other food-serving facilities, including those with a minors-allowed liquor license, are limited to 50 per cent capacity to a maximum of 50 people. Not-for-profit community kitchens, soup kitchens, religious kitchens and food services at work camps are exempt
- Take-out, delivery or drive-through service is permitted, and licensed facilities are permitted to deliver liquor

Alberta Health Services is postponing all scheduled and elective surgeries.

### *March 18*

On March 18, the Government of Alberta announced an emergency payment program of \$573 per week for Albertans facing self-isolation, and it will be available online next week.

It was also announced that people affected by COVID can apply for a deferral of ATB loans and lines of credit and mortgages for up to 6 months.

Alberta will also be matching the Federal Government's deferral of corporate income tax balances and instalment payments to August 31, 2020.

The Chief Medical Officer have advised that that all individuals who attended the Pacific Dental Conference self-isolate immediately and until 14 days have passed from the conclusion of the conference. For hospital visits, all visitors will need to be completely symptom free and only one visitor will be allowed at a time. Children will be restricted from visiting, because children do not necessarily show symptoms of COVID-19. Individuals who have an illness that can be transmitted, on self-isolation for COVID-19, being tested for COVID-19, have tested positive for COVID-19, cannot visit and will not be allowed to visit until the individual have recovered and receive clearance from medical officials.

The Alberta Dental Association and College announced yesterday a mandatory suspension of all non-emergency dental treatment and services.

The Government of Alberta website has suggested that employers and employees may consider using other available leaves should an employee be required to self-isolate.

- Employees can request using their vacation pay or banked overtime, but employers are not required to grant the request. Provincial employment rules only require employers to provide vacation pay, vacation leave or pay banked overtime within a year of it being earned.
- Employers can request employees voluntarily take vacation leave and/or use their vacation pay or banked overtime, but cannot force them to do so under provincial employment rules.

### *March 19*

Alberta has released an Order providing details of the COVID-19 Leave. An employee is entitled to unpaid leave for 14 consecutive days if the employee is under quarantine. Quarantine includes any self-isolation and self-quarantine as a result of COVID-19, as may be recommended or directed by the Chief Medical Officer. The Government of Alberta website states that the leave also covers an employee caring for a child or dependent adult that is required to self-isolate. The leave does not apply to self-employed individuals or contractors. The Minister may extend the leave if the Chief Medical Officer recommends that it is necessary to suppress COVID-19 in those who may already have been infected with it, to protect those who have not already been exposed to COVID-19, or to break the chain of transmission and prevent spread of COVID-19.

The employee under quarantine is exempt from the requirement to be employed for 90 days by the same employer, and the requirement to provide a medical certificate or a copy of a medical certificate to the employee's employer.

Based on the Government of Alberta website, the \$573 per week payment announced yesterday will be a one-time payment of \$1,146 for working adult Albertans who must self-isolate because they meet the Government of Alberta's published criteria for self-isolation, including persons who are the sole caregiver for a dependent who must self-isolate because they meet the public health criteria, and who will not have another source of pay or compensation while they are self-isolated. The payment is intended to bridge the gap until federal aid begins in April. The application is expected to be online through Alberta.ca next week.

### *March 20*

On March 20, Alberta appointed the Economic Recovery Council to provide advice on how to protect jobs during the economic crisis stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic and the recent collapse in energy prices. To help industry, Alberta is waiving the industry levy for the Alberta Energy Regulator for six months.

Alberta also made amendments to the *Emergency Management Act*, so that a provincial state of emergency can now supplement and reinforce a local authority's state of emergency.

Some licensed child care centres are being contacted by the government to reopen with certain protocols to provide child care for essential services workers.

Additional restrictions were placed at seniors' facilities. Only a single individual who is family, a friend or a paid companion whose care and companionship was necessary for the well-being of a resident who is designated by the resident or a guardian may visit. Each essential visitor must be verified and undergo a health screening prior to entering the facility, which may include a temperature check or a questionnaire.

It is recommended that everyone wash hands frequently and stay 2 meters away from others as much as possible. The Chief Medical Officer clarified that there is no danger to others for self-isolating individuals to be outside if they stay 2 metres away from others.

Farmers' markets can remain open, but social distancing and excellent hand hygiene are recommended.



Funerals may still be held if fewer than 50 attendees, but attendees must maintain social distancing, and anyone ill, even with mild symptoms, must not attend.

The justice ministry is looking at methods of enforcing the rules impacting public places, capacity limits, businesses and schools.

#### *March 23*

Alberta has announced new initiatives to help businesses. Small, medium and large private sector employers can defer WCB premiums until early 2021. Employers who have already paid their WCB premium payment for 2020-21 are eligible for a rebate or credit. For small and medium businesses, the government will cover 50% of the premium when it is due. Large employers will also receive a break by having their 2020 WCB premium payments deferred until early 2021, at which time their premiums will be due.

Education property tax for businesses are deferred for six months.

Deadlines are suspended for businesses, corporations and non-profits that require holding annual general meetings in order to file their annual returns with Alberta Corporate Registry.

Liquor and cannabis retail locations remain open in Alberta.

Testing procedures will be prioritized for the following individuals, if they are symptomatic:

- People who are hospitalized with respiratory illness.
- Residents of continuing care and other similar facilities.
- People who returned from travelling abroad between March 8 and 12, before the self-isolation protocols were in place.

Anyone with symptoms who does not fit any of these categories are advised to stay home and self-isolate for a minimum of 10 days from the start of their symptoms, or until symptoms resolve, whichever is longer.

Playgrounds in Calgary, Airdrie, and Rocky View Schools district are now closed.

A \$100 fine is currently in place for defying provincial health orders about self-isolation.

#### *March 24*

The Government of Alberta reiterates the new self-isolation rules:

- All Albertans who have travelled outside of the country, including snowbirds returning home from wintering in the United States and other countries, must go straight home upon returning to Alberta and self-isolate for 14 days.
- This means not going to the grocery store, not stopping at the kennel to pick up their dog, not dropping their RV off for service or storage, and not having family and friends over to visit or going to visit them while isolated. It means going directly and immediately home, self-isolating for 14 days and monitoring for symptoms.

- If symptoms do develop, individuals must self-isolate from all other members of their household for an **additional 10 days from the beginning of symptoms or until they are feeling well, whichever takes longer.**

The Government of Alberta also requires continuing care and long-term care facilities must have security staff or a greeter to conduct health screenings. To reiterate:

- Visitors to any continuing care, long-term care and seniors lodges in Alberta are limited to a single individual designated by the resident or guardian.
- Each essential visitor must be verified and undergo a health screening prior to entering the facility. This may include a temperature check or a questionnaire.
- Facilities must have security staff or a greeter to conduct this screening and verify the visitor is designated.
- Exceptions to these essential visitor rules will be made for family members to visit a person who is dying, so long as only one visitor enters the facility at a time.

#### *March 25*

On March 25, the Government of Alberta announced that public health orders will now be enforced by law. Fines for violating an order have increased to a prescribed fine of \$1,000 per occurrence. Courts will also have increased powers to administer fines of up to \$100,000 for a first offence and up to \$500,000 for a subsequent offence for more serious violations. These new fines will be in force over the coming days.

Current public health orders include mandatory self-isolation for travellers returning from outside of Canada for 14 days, plus an additional 10 days from the onset of any symptoms should they occur, whichever is longer. This requirement also applies to close contacts of confirmed COVID-19 cases, as well as to any individual with COVID-19 symptoms, which consist of a cough, fever, shortness of breath, runny nose, or sore throat.

Orders regarding restrictions around mass gatherings, public recreational facilities, private entertainment facilities, and visitations to long-term care and other continuing care facilities are also enforceable, along with any future public health orders.

#### *March 26*

The emergency isolation support program is now available for application using the MyAlberta Digital ID (MADI) account.

#### *March 27*

On March 27, Alberta announced that public gatherings will now be restricted to 15 people or fewer. A gathering is any event or assembling that brings people together in person, in a single room or single space, indoors or outdoors, at the same time. It does not include operations in certain workplaces and businesses not specifically defined by the chief medical officer of health.

Workplaces that are not otherwise restricted or ordered to close can have more than 15 workers on a work site as long as they follow all public health guidelines, including social distancing measures. Employers should:

- self-assess and find alternate ways to organize large group meetings
- cancel workplace gatherings of 15 or more people in a single space (e.g. training events)
- employ mitigation strategies to limit risk
- continue business continuity planning to prepare critical operations for any potential interruption

Albertans are prohibited from attending all public recreation facilities and private entertainment facilities, including:

- gyms, swimming pools, arenas
- science centres, museums, art galleries
- libraries, community centres, children’s play centres, bowling alleys
- casinos, racing entertainment centres, bingo halls

Effective immediately, many non-essential businesses are ordered to close. Such as retail, clothing and gaming stores, including book stores, hobby stores and antique stores, but these businesses may choose to offer online shopping and curbside pick-up.

For restaurants, cafes and bars:

- All dine-in services are prohibited. Take-out, delivery and drive-through service is still permitted.
- Albertans are prohibited from attending bars and nightclubs, where law prohibits minors.
- Restaurants in a food court may stay open for take-out only (no seating).

Albertans are also prohibited from accessing close contact personal services, including:

- Personal services facilities and cosmetic enhancement services
  - esthetics
  - manicure
  - pedicure
  - body waxing
  - make-up
  - body, nose and ear piercing
  - tattoos
  - artificial tanning and spray tanning
  - hairstyling
  - barbering
  - facial treatments
  - eyebrow and eyelash treatments
  - laser hair and tattoo removal
  - cosmetic skin and body treatments
- Wellness studios and clinics
  - floatation tanks
  - colonic irrigation
  - massage
  - reflexology
- Non-emergency and non-critical health services
  - dentistry

- physiotherapy
- massage
- foot care and podiatry
- acupuncture and acupressure
- chiropractic services
- naturopathy

The 15-person limit does not apply to certain services or facilities, including:

- grocery stores
- shopping centres (access is prohibited to retail stores listed above)
- health care facilities
- airports
- the legislature
- other essential services

Definition of what businesses are considered essential services has not been provided yet.

Further measures announced include:

- Tenants cannot be evicted for non-payment of rent or utilities before May 1.
- Rents will not increase while state of public health emergency remains in effect.
- Beginning April 1, late fees cannot be applied to late rent payments for the next three months.
- Beginning April 1, landlords and tenants must work together to develop payment plans while the state of public health emergency is in effect.
- All provincial parks and public lands have been closed to vehicle traffic.

Any business or organization not following the public health order will be subject to a fine of up to \$100,000 for a first offence and up to \$500,000 for a subsequent offence for more serious violations. There is an online compliant process for individuals to report any businesses violating these orders.

*March 30*

Alberta has clarified that individuals in mandatory self-isolation can no longer leave their property.

*March 31*

No updates.

*April 1*

The Court of Queen's Bench is encouraging Albertans to access alternative dispute resolution mechanisms for non-urgent matters, including mediation and arbitration.

*April 2*

New health orders were outlined for licensed supportive living (including group homes and lodges), long-term care (nursing homes and auxiliary hospitals), and residential addiction treatment service providers licensed under the Mental Health Services Protection Act.

Staff and operators will be required to notify public health authorities as soon as a case is confirmed or if two or more residents exhibit COVID-19 symptoms, and staff who work at multiple facilities are required to immediately inform their supervisors if they have worked or are working at a facility where there is a confirmed or suspected case. Operators and managers must also inform all families with residents in the facilities.

#### *April 3*

Hospital will no longer be able to have any visitors in person. Exceptions will be made on a case-by-case basis, such as in regards to children.

#### *April 6*

The Emergency Isolation Support program is now closed as the federal program has begun.

Alberta is making further but temporary changes to the employment standards legislation to assist employees and employers:

- Employees caring for children affected by school and daycare closures or ill or self-isolated family members due to COVID-19 will have access to unpaid job-protected leave. The 90-day employment requirement is waived and leave length is flexible.
- The maximum time for a temporary layoff is increased from 60 days to 120 days. This change is retroactive for any temporary layoffs related to COVID-19 that occurred on or after March 17.
- The 24-hour written notice requirement for shift changes, and the two weeks' notice for changes to work schedules for those under an averaging agreement are removed.
- The requirement to provide the group termination notice to employees and unions when 50 or more employees are being terminated is removed.
- The process for approvals related to modifying employment standards is streamlined.
- These temporary changes take effect immediately and will be in place as long as government determines it is needed and the public health emergency order remains.

#### *April 7*

Alberta announced that most visitors will be banned from all licensed supportive living homes, long-term care and continuing care centres. The only exception would be a visitor for a dying resident or a visitor essential for delivering care.

#### *April 8*

Alberta is deferring specific legislated reporting requirements for energy companies under the *Coal Conservation Act*, the *Oil and Gas Conservation Act* and the *Oil Sands Conservation Act*. The deferrals will not affect any monitoring requirements that ensure Alberta's public safety and environmental protection, or any reporting required for royalty calculation and collection. This order will expire on August 14, or 60 days after the date on which the public health emergency ends, whichever is earlier.

#### *April 9*

Alberta announced temporary regulation changes regarding commercial trucking transporting essential supplies in direct support of the COVID-19 relief efforts. The regulation changes will allow the following:

- Work for longer periods of time, provided all safety conditions are met.
- Apply for fewer municipal and provincial overweight permits by increasing the limits on weight of loads some vehicles can carry.
- Be exempt from road bans.
- Be exempt from municipal bylaws that restrict the hours they operate and park.
- Provincially regulated railways to temporarily delay audits and retesting of existing operators' skills and medical fitness.
- Albertans and businesses will have until 30 days after the public health emergency ends to file appeals to the Alberta Transportation Safety Board and 30 days after the ministerial order ends to file judicial reviews of the board's decisions.
- The expiry dates of vehicle inspection certificates and decals will be extended to May 15 for those certificates set to expire between March 17 and May 15.
- Extending the timeline for most drivers who require a medical evaluation to provide their completed medical form when applying for or renewing their licence.

Business Link will serve as a one-stop shop to help small businesses learn about and connect to available COVID-19 supports based on their unique business needs. Services can be accessed at 1-800-272-9675 or visit [www.businesslink.ca](http://www.businesslink.ca).

#### *April 10 – April 13*

Testing in Alberta has now been expanded to any individual exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 including cough, fever, runny nose, sore throat or shortness of breath.

#### *April 14*

Military families needing child care will now be able to access reopened child care centres.

Increased funding is being provided for Alberta caregivers to expand supports and resources.

Effective April 15, continuing care workers will be required to wear masks at all times when providing direct patient care or working in patient care areas.

Starting on April 16, workers in long-term care and designated supportive living sites will only be allowed to work at one location. This requirement must be fully implemented no later than April 23.

Alberta is extending the suspension of road tests until the public health emergency ends.

#### *April 15*

Alberta announced that it will be investing \$21.4 million to improve access to phone and online supports with existing helplines, including the Addiction Helpline, the Mental Health Helpline, the Kids Help Phone and the Community and Social Services Helpline (Alberta 211), \$2.6 million to expand individual and group treatment to address family violence, addiction and mental health for Albertans, \$4.2 million to expand the addiction and mental health support available through Primary Care Networks, and \$25 million for a new community grant program to enhance community mental health and addiction recovery for the public who are negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

*April 16 – April 17*

No updates.

More information can be found here: <https://www.alberta.ca/coronavirus-info-for-albertans.aspx>

## **British Columbia**

*March 13*

B.C. health officials are discouraging all non-essential travel outside of Canada (including to the U.S.) Anyone who travels abroad must stay home from work or school for 14 days upon their return to the province (there are exceptions for flight crews, long-haul truckers and other frequent travellers deemed "essential" to the movement of goods and services). Employers should not be requiring a negative coronavirus test before allowing isolated employees to return to work. Event organizers are required to cancel all gatherings of 250 people or more.

At this time, officials are not asking schools in the province to close. However, health officials and the provincial Ministry of Education will continue to evaluate the possibility of closing schools in the future. Students in B.C. began their spring breaks at the end of the day on Friday, March 13<sup>th</sup>. B.C.'s major universities have switched to online classes for the rest of the term. The B.C. Supreme Court has cancelled all jury selections until the end of May, and is asking lawyers and parties to consider agreeing to adjourn matters scheduled to proceed between now and the end of May that do not need to urgently proceed.

Health officials are currently focusing testing for COVID-19 on existing clusters, people in hospitals, health-care staff, and long-term care homes, along with anyone who exhibits serious symptoms.

*March 16*

B.C. health officials are now requiring event organizers to cancel all gatherings of more than 50 people (as of March 13, the requirement applied to events of 250 people or more). US citizens are advised not to travel to B.C.

B.C. will be suspending thousands of non-urgent scheduled surgeries by the end of the week to free up beds in anticipation of a possible spike in new cases. All provincial health authorities have also been asked to move to phase two of their outbreak response plan. The province is asking pharmacists to no longer require a doctor's note to refill prescriptions in order to take pressure off of doctors. Visits to long-term care homes are being restricted to essential visitors only. Health authorities have also been directed to register non-practicing, retired, out-of-jurisdiction and military health-care workers to help if needed.

An announcement on schools is expected as soon as March 17.

B.C. is also launching a dedicated coronavirus information line, which can be reached at 1-888-COVID19-19.

*March 17*

Premier John Horgan announced that B.C. has suspended all schools in the province until further notice to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. Horgan and Finance Minister Carole James said the province would unveil its pandemic economic plan once the federal government reveals details of its own stimulus package on Wednesday. B.C. will then look to fill any gaps or supplement where needed.

Premier Horgan also indicated that amendments will be coming to the *Employment Standards Act* to protect workers and prevent layoffs in the event someone has to stay at home to self isolate in the interests of protecting their coworkers and the sector. The substance of the bill is still in discussion and so further details are forthcoming.

B.C. health officials declared a public health emergency. All bars were ordered to remain closed. Businesses that remain open, including grocery stores and pharmacies, should take measures to ensure social distancing — about one to two metres between all people. Restaurants that cannot practice social-distancing among its guests and manage crowd sizes have also been ordered to close.

More information can be found here: <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19>

#### *March 18*

The B.C. government has declared a provincial state of emergency in response to the coronavirus pandemic. The declaration will give government broad powers to make orders without the legislature. The government also plans to briefly recall the legislature for a half-day session to pass legislation, including an expected job-protected leave for employees who are in self-isolation.

#### *March 19*

Multiple municipalities have declared a local state of emergency, including Vancouver, New Westminster and Delta. These orders give municipal governments broader powers to support the orders of the Provincial Health Officer.

B.C. Supreme Court Chief Justice Christopher Hinkson has suspended the court's regular operations in order to comply with public health guidelines and contain the spread of COVID-19. The announcement applies to criminal, civil and family matters. Four provincial court locations have closed entirely. Courthouses in Campbell River, Nanaimo and Chilliwack, as well as Vancouver's criminal and community courts, are closed.

#### *March 20*

B.C. health officials ordered that all restaurants in the province must transition to dine-out or delivery only. B.C. health officials also indicated their expectation that WorkSafeBC will be introducing measures to ensure the ongoing safety of workers. At present, WorkSafeBC has made some resources available for employers and workers, which can be found here: <https://www.worksafebc.com/en/about-us/covid-19-updates>

#### *March 23*

The B.C. Government has passed Bill 16, the *Employment Standards Amendment Act (No. 2), 2020*, which provides new job-protected leaves relating to COVID-19, as well as a new permanent illness or injury leave.

Bill 16 creates a new section 52.12 of the *ESA*, which provides employees with an entitlement to unpaid leave if, in relation to COVID-19, any of the following applies:

- (a) the employee has been diagnosed with COVID-19 and is acting in accordance with
  - (i) instructions or an order of a medical health officer, or
  - (ii) advice of a medical practitioner, nurse practitioner or registered nurse;



- (b) the employee is in quarantine or self-isolation in accordance with
  - (i) an order of the provincial health officer,
  - (ii) an order made under the *Quarantine Act* (Canada),
  - (iii) guidelines of the British Columbia Centre for Disease Control, or
  - (iv) guidelines of the Public Health Agency of Canada;
- (c) the employer, due to the employer's concern about the employee's exposure to others, has directed the employee not to work;
- (d) the employee is providing care to an eligible person, including because of the closure of a school or daycare or similar facility;
- (e) the employee is outside the province and cannot return to British Columbia because of travel or border restrictions;
- (g) a prescribed situation exists relating to the employee.

For the purposes of this section, “eligible person” means any of the following:

- (a) a child who is under the day-to-day care and control of the employee by way of agreement or court order or because the employee is the child's parent or guardian;
- (b) a person who
  - (i) is 19 years of age or older,
  - (ii) is unable, because of illness, disability or another reason, to obtain the necessities of life or withdraw from the charge of the person's parent or former guardian, and
  - (iii) is under the day-to-day care and control of the employee, who is the person's parent or former guardian;
- (c) a prescribed person.

An employee is entitled to leave under section 52.12 for as long as a circumstance qualifying the employee for leave under this section applies to the employee. If requested by the employer, the employee must, as soon as practicable, provide to the employer reasonably sufficient proof that a circumstance qualifying the employee for the leave applies to the employee. However, an employer must not request, and an employee is not required to provide, a note from a medical practitioner, nurse practitioner or registered nurse.

Bill 16 also clarifies that an employee’s rights under section 52.12 are retroactive to January 27, 2020, the date that the first presumptive COVID-19 case was confirmed in B.C. If an employer terminated an employee on or after January 27, 2020 but before section 52.12 of the *Employment Standards Act* came into force, due to a circumstance described in section 52.12 applying to the employee, the employer must offer the employee re-employment in the same or a comparable position and, if the employee is re-employed, the employee's absence from employment following the termination is deemed to be a leave under section 52.12. The provisions will be time-limited during the COVID-19 crisis and will be repealed later by cabinet.

In addition to the COVID-19 specific measures, Bill 16 creates a new section 49.1 of the *ESA* which provides for 3 days of unpaid leave in each employment year for personal illness or injury. Employees must have been employed for 90 consecutive days in order to be eligible. This is a permanent change to the *ESA* that was intended to bring B.C. in line with other provinces in Canada.

Separately, the B.C. Government released its \$5 billion COVID-19 Action Plan that serves as a “starting point” to provide relief for people and businesses affected by the outbreak. One of the sources of funding is a new B.C. Emergency Benefit, which is a one-time tax-free \$1,000 payment available to B.C. workers who are eligible for employment insurance as a result of COVID-19 and those eligible for the new federal emergency care benefit and federal emergency support. In addition, businesses will be allowed to defer a number of provincial tax filings, including the employer’s health tax.

At this time, B.C. has not defined a list of essential businesses or sectors as Ontario and Quebec have. Provincial health officials have indicated that in addition to frontline health and emergency response services, grocery stores and pharmacies will remain open, as well as the businesses that support critical supply chains for these services (including ports, airports and warehouse businesses). Construction sites have been authorized to continue operations within the social distancing protocols

The City of Vancouver Council passed a motion allowing the city to fine businesses up to \$50,000 and individuals up to \$1,000 if they don't follow the new rules passed on March 19 under Vancouver’s State of Emergency.

#### *March 24*

B.C. Parks suspended services and closed facilities at all but four provincial parks to discourage people from getting outside in groups, for the safety of visitors and volunteers. The temporary measures affect marine parks, visitor centres, nature houses, playgrounds, washrooms and day-use facilities. Visitors can still use trails and areas that are accessible, but they will be responsible for their own safety.

#### *March 25*

The B.C. government is suspending evictions and freezing rent increases in an effort to help tenants make ends meet and keep their homes for the duration of the provincial COVID-19 emergency. The new ban means landlords cannot issue a new notice to end a tenancy for any reason and existing orders will not be enforced, though there are exemptions for the latter. Existing notices will still be enforced in "extreme cases where there are safety concerns." A small number of court-ordered evictions, which operate independently of government, are also exempt from the suspension. Annual rent increases are also banned as of Wednesday. The government is also offering a monthly rebate of up to \$500 for three months to take some pressure off tenants struggling to make payments. The rebate will be paid directly to landlords through BC Housing.

#### *March 26*

Mike Farnworth, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General, used extraordinary powers under the *Emergency Program Act* to issue a series of ministerial orders to ensure a co-ordinated response to COVID-19 across all levels of government for the duration of the provincial emergency. These include:

- Establishing a new Provincial Supply Chain Coordination Unit to co-ordinate goods and services distribution; taking a more active role in co-ordinating essential goods and services movement by land, air, marine and rail; and suspending any bylaws that restrict goods delivery at any time of day.
- Banning the secondary resale of food, medical supplies, personal protective equipment, cleaning and other essential supplies; and restricting quantities of items purchased at point of sale.

- Enabling municipal bylaw officers to support enforcement of the provincial health officer's orders for business closures and gatherings, in line with offences under the *Public Health Act*.
- Ensuring all passenger and car-ferry services provide minimum service levels and priority access for residents, and essential goods and workers.
- Making it easier to support critical services for vulnerable people, like food banks and shelters.
- Suspending local states of emergency specific to the COVID-19 pandemic, except for the City of Vancouver; giving municipal councils the ability to hold more flexible meetings to expedite decisions; and co-ordinating potential use of local publicly owned facilities, like community centres, for self-isolation, testing, medical care, warehousing and distribution.

The B.C. government has also defined essential services British Columbians rely on in their daily lives in the context of COVID-19 response and recovery. At this time, any business or service that has not been ordered to close, and is also not identified on the essential service list, may stay open if it can adapt its services and workplace to the orders and recommendations of the Provincial Health Officer. The essential services list includes health and health services; law enforcement, public safety, first responders, emergency response personnel; vulnerable population service providers; critical infrastructure service providers; food and agriculture service providers; transportation, infrastructure and manufacturing; sanitation; communications information sharing and information technology (IT); and non-health essential service providers. The full list can be found [here](#).

Seniors and volunteers who want to help them are being urged to call the 211 helpline to connect to support and organizers who are arranging things like grocery pick up and medication or meal drop off.

TransLink will be limiting seating to roughly half normal capacity on all Metro Vancouver buses starting next week to promote physical distancing. Once a bus reaches its new capacity, operators will no longer stop to collect passengers.

#### *March 27*

Attorney General David Eby has made an order under B.C.'s *Emergency Program Act* to suspend limitation periods to commence court proceedings in British Columbia. The B.C. government has released a plan to provide a safe supply of drugs to people who use substances, amid fears the illegal drug supply is becoming increasingly toxic as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The B.C. government also indicated B.C. hospitals are "reasonably" prepared to handle the influx of patients, with 17 of its biggest hospitals now identified as primary COVID-19 treatment sites.

#### *March 30*

Following spring break, many B.C. schools have returned via online learning. The province on Friday launched [Keep Learning B.C.](#), a new at-home education resource website for parents and caregivers. At the direction of the public health office, the Ministry of Education said school buildings will stay open with limited staff to support children whose parents are essential front-line workers. Officials are asking parents to avoid showing up at schools with children before contacting principals or administrators.

Over the weekend, the ministry and the B.C. Centre for Disease Control released several pages of [guidance](#) to retailers in an effort to curb the spread of COVID-19.

#### *March 31*

The B.C. government has released guidelines for protecting workers and reducing risk of infection at large industrial camps. The guidelines can be found here: <http://www.bccdc.ca/Health-Info-Site/Documents/COVID-19-guidelines-industrial-camps.pdf>

#### *April 1*

B.C.'s provincial state of emergency has been extended until April 14.

WorkSafeBC has published a guide for employers on preventing exposure to COVID-19 in the workplace, which can be found here: <https://www.worksafebc.com/en/resources/about-us/guides/preventing-exposure-to-covid-19-in-the-workplace?lang=en>

The B.C. government has announced BC Hydro is offering a three-month bill credit to people who are out of work or working at a reduced wage because of the outbreak. The credit will be three times their average monthly bill over the previous year and will not have to be repaid. For small businesses forced to close during the pandemic, the utility is offering bill forgiveness for April, May and June. Large, industrial customers can have 50 per cent of their payments deferred for the next three months. In addition, Premier Horgan said the B.C. Utilities Commission has approved a one per cent rate drop "across the board" to help cut costs for customers.

B.C.'s Ministry of Education announced it has paid to license Zoom for teachers so they can host video calls that act as virtual classrooms for students while in-class learning is suspended due to the pandemic.

#### *April 2*

The B.C. government has announced it is increasing the monthly amount that people on income and disability assistance receive by \$300, to help them during the COVID-19 crisis. Anyone on those programs who is not eligible for the federal government's emergency support programs will have the supplement automatically added to their cheques for the three months, starting April 22. The supplement will also go to low-income seniors who receive the B.C. Senior's Supplement and people who receive income or disability assistance and live in a special care facility.

#### *April 3*

The B.C. government announced a \$1.5 million increase to the Indigenous Emergency Assistance Fund, which helps Indigenous post-secondary students facing financial hardship that affects their ability to finish their studies.

B.C. Ferries will cut its service levels nearly in half starting Saturday, reducing sailings and suspending several routes.

#### *April 6*

No update.

#### *April 7*

The B.C. government has amended the *Labour Relations Regulation* to provide that union membership cards remain valid for a period of 6 months following the date they are signed. Previously signed cards expired after a period of 90 days.

The City of Vancouver has suspended the licence of one business for failing to comply with provincial health orders related to COVID-19, and has issued nine warnings to construction sites.

*April 8*

Premier Horgan announced that all travellers returning to B.C. from abroad in coming weeks will now be required to present a formal self-isolation plan to provincial and federal authorities before being allowed to pass customs. The changes will apply to land borders as well as Vancouver International Airport. For those who don't have a plan, a quarantine site will be set up while they prepare one.

All provincial parks in B.C. are closing effective immediately in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

*April 9*

Statistics Canada Labour Force numbers for March indicate that B.C.'s jobless rate rose to 7.2 per cent from five per cent.

B.C. is spending \$5 million to expand existing mental health services and launch new virtual programs to help British Columbians cope with the pandemic. The funding will also increase access to support for Indigenous communities and people living in remote and rural parts of the province.

B.C. Minister of Health Adrian Dix and Minister of Health for Alberta Tyler Shandro issue a joint statement asking people not to cross the border this long weekend.

*April 10*

No updates.

*April 11 - April 17*

Premier Horgan announced that the provincial state of emergency in B.C. has been extended another two weeks until April 28.

Provincial health officer Dr. Bonnie Henry indicated that B.C. could ease some COVID-19 restrictions next month if active cases and hospitalizations continue to fall, including with respect to elective surgeries, reactivating sectors of the economy that aren't contingent on large gatherings of people, and some activities in schools.

## **Saskatchewan**

Saskatchewan's Chief Medical Health Officer recommends avoiding all non-essential international travel until further notice. All travellers returning from international destinations - including the United States – need to self-isolate and monitor their health for 14 days upon return. Travellers returning from within Canada are advised to self-monitor for 14 days upon return.

The Province of Saskatchewan has introduced a new Self-Assessment Tool to help residents determine who should be tested for COVID-19 .

Saskatchewan is also prohibiting events that bring together 250 people in a single room and banning gatherings of more than 50 people that include speakers or attendees with recent international travel. The exemption for faith-based organizations has been removed.

School closures for pre-K to Grade 12 schools will begin March 20, 2020. The measures apply to daycares that are co-located with schools.

Licensed daycare facilities outside of schools are currently not closed, but the Government of Saskatchewan has stated that further measures regarding licensed daycare facilities are being considered. Officials are currently examining options to provide childcare services for individuals that are providing essential services during the COVID-19 response.

Long-term care homes, hospitals, personal care homes and group homes are restricted to essential visitors only, meaning immediately family visiting during compassionate reasons.

Regina is closing all community and recreation facilities to the public until further notice.

### *March 17*

On March 17, the Chief Medical Health Officer issued a Public Health Order directing:

- Classes in all primary and secondary educational institutions will be suspended indefinitely effective March 20, 2020.
- Public gatherings of over 250 people in one room are prohibited except in the following circumstances:
  - Settings where people are distributed into multiple rooms or buildings, such as universities, and
  - Retail locations.
- Public gatherings of over 50 people with attendees who have traveled internationally in the previous 14 days of the scheduled event are prohibited.
- Visitors to long-term care homes, hospitals, personal care homes, and group homes shall be restricted to family visiting for compassionate reasons.

The Government of Saskatchewan has passed a new Public Health Emergency Leave, which does not require 13 consecutive weeks of employment with the employer before accessing sick leave. It comes into force retroactively on and from March 6, 2020.

An employee is entitled to a public health emergency leave for the period during which an order of the chief medical health officer issued pursuant to:

- a public health emergency has been determined by the World Health Organization and the chief medical health officer has issued an order declaring:
  - that the public health emergency applies to Saskatchewan; and
  - that individuals in Saskatchewan must take measures to prevent or reduce the spread of disease, including isolating themselves from other individuals; or
- the chief medical health officer issues an order declaring that, in the opinion of the chief medical health officer, a disease present in Saskatchewan is sufficiently harmful to the public health that individuals in Saskatchewan must take measures to prevent or reduce the spread of disease, including isolating themselves from other individuals.

if any of the following have directed employees to isolate themselves to prevent or reduce the spread of the disease that is the subject of the order:

- the employer of the employees;
- a duly qualified medical practitioner;
- the Government of Saskatchewan;
- the chief medical health officer; or
- the employee is required to provide care and support to the employee's child family member who is affected by a direction or order of the Government of Saskatchewan or an order of the chief medical health officer.

Employees are entitled to be paid their regular wages and are entitled to their regular benefits during this period if:

- they are authorized by their employer to work at home during that period;
- they comply with the measures set out in the order of the chief medical health officer; and
- they comply with any additional requirements set out in an order made pursuant to an order by the Lieutenant Governor in Council.

### *March 18*

On March 18, the Government of Saskatchewan declared a provincial state of emergency. The following measures are effective immediately:

- Public gatherings larger than 50 people are prohibited.
- All restaurants, bars and event venues must limit their seating to 50 per cent of capacity or up to a maximum of fifty people, whichever is lesser. All must be able to ensure social distance of one to two metres between customers. Retail spaces including grocery stores, pharmacies and gas stations are exempted from this policy but must have processes to maintain a one to two metre separation.
- All gyms, fitness centres, casinos and bingo halls are ordered to close until further notice.
- Residents are advised to limit any non-essential travel outside of Saskatchewan, with the exception of people who live in border communities and are commuting for work.
- Any licensed restaurants and taverns in Saskatchewan will be permitted to sell alcohol as an offsale according to SLGA regulations indefinitely.
- All crown utilities will implement bill-deferral programs allowing a zero-interest bill deferral for up to six months for Saskatchewan residents whose ability to make bill payments may be impacted by the COVID-19 restrictions.
- All Government of Saskatchewan ministries, agencies and Crown corporations will implement a phased-in work from home policy effective Monday, March 23, applicable to employees deemed non-essential. This means that any employees able to work from home should do so immediately, while providing managers a period to plan for work-force continuity.

The Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA) will be discontinuing all non-urgent/elective surgeries, procedures and diagnostics as of March 23. Visitors are not permitted in any SHA-operated hospitals, clinics, community and continuing care facilities, except for compassionate reasons.

### March 19

On March 19, the Government of Saskatchewan advised that it has introduced amendments to *The Saskatchewan Employment Act* to remove the provision requiring a doctor's note or certificate in order to access leave.

Self-isolation is required for 14 days after returning from travel outside Canada, for individuals who have been in close contact with a person with COVID-19, and for individuals who are diagnosed with COVID-19 and well enough to stay at home.

### March 20

On March 20, Saskatchewan made further amendments to the *Employment Standards Regulations*:

- During a public emergency, businesses will not have to provide notice or pay in lieu of notice when they lay-off staff if it is for a period of 12 weeks or less in a 16-week period.
- If an employer lays off employees periodically for a total of more than 12 weeks in a 16-week period, the employees are considered to be terminated and are entitled to pay instead of notice calculated from the date on which the employee was laid off.
- Under the Public Health Emergency Leave, if there is a conflict of opinion between the employer, and a duly qualified medical practitioner, the Government of Saskatchewan, or the chief medical health officer, the opinion of the duly qualified medical practitioner, the Government of Saskatchewan, or the chief medical health officer prevails.
- Employees are entitled to Public Health Emergency Leave to care for family members or children so long as the employee is not required to provide critical public health and safety services.

On March 20, Saskatchewan ordered the following measures are effective immediately:

- Public gatherings of more than 25 people in one room are prohibited except where two metre distancing between people can be maintained; workplace and meeting settings where people are distributed into multiple rooms or buildings; and retail locations (ie. grocery stores, pharmacies, gas stations).
- The closure of all nightclubs, bars, lounges and similar facilities. Take out of alcohol or food products so permitted with two metre distancing between customers and the delivery of alcohol or food products.
- In-person classes in all primary and secondary educational institutions both public and private are suspended.
- Visitors to long-term care homes, hospitals, personal care homes, and group homes shall be restricted to family visiting for compassionate reasons.
- Effective immediately, all persons that have travelled internationally shall go into mandatory self-isolation for 14 days from date of arrival back into Canada.
- Health Care workers who have traveled internationally, truckers, rail, airline or other working crews are exempt from this advisory only if they are required to work to maintain essential services, provide emergency health care services and maintain supply chain, and are supervised by Infection, Prevention Control Officers and/or Occupational Health and Safety in the workplace.



- All persons who have been identified by a Medical Health Officer as a close contact of a person or persons with novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) shall go into mandatory self-isolation for 14 days from the date of last having been exposed to COVID-19.
- All persons who have become symptomatic while on mandatory self-isolation shall call HealthLine 811 and follow HealthLine's directives.
- All persons who are household members of a person having laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 shall immediately go into mandatory self-isolation, call HealthLine 811 and follow HealthLine's directives.

Saskatchewan ordered the following measures are effective March 23, 2020:

- The closure of restaurants, food courts, cafeterias, cafes, bistros and similar facilities. Exceptions are take out with two metre distancing between customers during pick-up; drive through food services; delivery of food products; soup kitchens, not-for-profit community and religious kitchens with two metre distancing between tables.
- The closure of all recreational and entertainment facilities including fitness centers, casinos, bingo halls, arenas, curling rinks, swimming pools, galleries, theatres, museums and similar facilities.
- The closure of all personal service facilities including tattooists, hairdressers, barbers, acupuncturists, acupressurists, cosmetologists, electrologists, estheticians, manicurists, pedicurists, suntanning parlours, relaxation masseuses, facilities in which body piercing, bone grafting or scarification services.
- The closure of dental, optometrist, chiropractic, registered massage therapy and podiatry clinics except for non-elective procedures.
- All daycare facilities are limited to maximum of eight children unless they can configure the facility so that a maximum of eight children are kept in room and be in accordance with the Saskatchewan child care guidelines for care.
- All daycares that are co-located with a long-term care or personal care home that meet the above restriction shall be segregated with a private entrance so that there are no shared common areas with the home and no interaction between daycare children and residents of the facility.

Saskatchewan is providing a Self-Isolation Support Program that will provide \$450 per week, for a maximum of two weeks or \$900. The Self-Isolation Support Program is targeted at Saskatchewan residents forced to self-isolate that are not covered by recent federally announced employment insurance programs and other supports. The program is designed to ensure that all Saskatchewan residents are covered by either a federal or provincial program to ensure no one is faced with choosing to work instead of protecting their family and community from COVID-19 by self-isolating. Individuals are eligible if:

- They have contracted COVID-19 or are showing symptoms;
- They have been in contact with an individual infected with COVID-19;
- They have recently returned from international travel and have been required to self-isolate;

AND

- If they are not eligible for compensation including sick leave, vacation leave from their employer
- If they do not have private insurance covering such disruptions
- If they are not covered by other programs such as federal employment insurance that has been updated.

Effective immediately, Saskatchewan businesses who are unable to remit their PST due to cashflow concerns will have relief from penalty and interest charges. Businesses that are unable to file their provincial tax return(s) by the due date may submit a request for relief from penalty and interest charges on the return(s) affected. At this time, audit program and compliance activities have been suspended.

Beginning March 23, Saskatchewan is re-purposing child care facilities in schools for support staff in health care and other employees who are delivering services related to the pandemic response.

Child care centres not located in schools are able to continue to operate as normal, and government funding will continue to be provided.

#### *March 23*

Anyone who has a fever or cough is asked to self-isolate immediately and to use the province's self-assessment tool. International travellers returning to Saskatchewan are required by law to self-isolate for 14 days. Anyone who has been in contact with someone with COVID-19 also needs to self-isolate for 14 days from the date of exposure.

People who are healthy can go outdoors as long as they maintain proper physical distance of at least two metres from other people.

#### *March 24*

The announcements today focused on the Saskatchewan Health Authority's capacity. SHA is activating plans to create additional capacity through:

- Creation of dedicated spaces to cohort COVID-19 patients within facilities.
- Creation of COVID-19 designated hospitals in Saskatoon and Regina and other areas of the province, where required.
- Creation of additional community based acute care capacity where required (e.g. field hospitals in school gyms, community centres, rinks, etc.).

Actions that people and communities must take:

- Practicing good hygiene, washing hands regularly and practicing social distancing (two meters apart wherever possible);
- Abide by provincial and local travel, self-isolation, event and gathering restrictions;
- Use medical supplies effectively and efficiently so that they are there when needed;
- Avoid visiting our hospitals and long-term care facilities unless there are compassionate reasons for doing so.

#### *March 25*

On March 25, the Government of Saskatchewan announced that the size of public and private gatherings is limited to a maximum of ten people. Exceptions are provided where two metre distancing between people can be maintained, such as: workplaces and meeting settings where people are distributed into multiple rooms or buildings; and retail locations deemed essential.

Workplaces must ensure their occupational health and safety guidelines are up to date and in force to prevent the transmission of respiratory illnesses.

A list of critical public services and allowable business services has been created to inform the business community of which businesses can continue to operate in accordance with social distancing practices.

Effective March 26, non-allowable business services will be unable to provide public-facing services. Non-allowable business services can expand into online retailing, or providing pick-up or delivery services.

Automotive dealers, auto repair and autobody shops are allowable businesses.

Examples of non-allowable business services that will be prohibited from providing public-facing services includes: clothing stores; shoe stores; flower shops; sporting good and adventure stores; vaping supply shops; boats, ATV, or snowmobile retailers; gift, book, or stationary stores; jewelry and accessory stores; toy stores; music, electronic and entertainment stores; pawn shops; and travel agencies.

The full list of allowable businesses can be found here: <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/-/media/news-release-backgrounders/2020/mar/critical-public-services-to-address-covid-19-and-allowable-business-services.pdf>

*March 26*

On March 26, the prior public health order was amended to include the limiting of indoor and outdoor gatherings to no more than 10 people, except for families in the same household, and where critical public and business services are conducted. In the case of critical public and business services where two-metre distancing is not possible, other measures such as self-monitoring or supervision by Infection Prevention and Control Officers, or Occupational Health and Safety in the workplace, will be allowed.

The order clarified that staff must dispense food products, and self-service of open prepared food products (e.g. salad bars, soup and hot food items at convenience stores) is no longer permitted.

Government is temporarily suspending eviction hearings as a result of the COVID-19 emergency.

*March 27*

No update.

*March 30*

No update.

*March 31*

No update.

*April 1*

No update.

*April 2*

No update.

### *April 3*

All employees working at long-term care facilities in Saskatchewan will have their temperatures checked and will be monitored for COVID-19 symptoms prior to beginning their shifts.

### *April 6*

On April 6, Saskatchewan remains essential workplaces that all employers and employees to practice prevention methods at all times – on the job site, in the breakroom or when working outdoors.

- Actively monitor for symptoms. At the first sign of cough, immediately self-isolate for 14 days.
- Practice physical distancing in the workplace, including those workplaces that are outdoors. Maintain a two-metre separation between individuals.
- Wash your hands often.
- Cough/sneeze into your elbow or tissue and wash your hands immediately.

Workplaces must ensure their occupational health and safety guidelines are up to date and being enforced to prevent the transmission of respiratory illnesses.

### *April 7*

No updates.

### *April 8*

No updates.

### *April 9*

Saskatchewan announced the Saskatchewan Small Business Emergency Payment. To be eligible for the SSBEP, a business must:

- have been fully operational on February 29, 2020;
- have ceased or curtailed operations as a result of the COVID-19 public health order;
- have less than 500 employees; and
- commit to reopen business operations following the cancellation of the COVID-19 public health order.

The SSBEP provides a one-time grant for small and medium-sized enterprises directly affected by government public health orders related to COVID-19. Grants will be paid based on 15 per cent of a business' monthly sales revenue, to a maximum of \$5,000.

### *April 10 – April 13*

Saskatchewan clarified that the prohibition on price gouging does not prevent businesses from reasonably raising prices, for instance, to cover increased costs of acquiring inventory. However, businesses that impose grossly excessive price increases on consumer goods or services during periods of crisis may be found guilty of committing an unfair practice.

*April 14*

Saskatchewan announced measures for the oil and gas industries. Deadlines for filings were extended. Mineral rights expiring in 2020 have been extended by one year. The Oil and Gas Administrative Levy is reduced by 50% for 2020, with the fee payment delayed until October.

*April 15*

No updates.

*April 16 – April 17*

Saskatchewan announced that:

- Effective April 28, 2020, long-term care and personal care homes must ensure that each staff member works in only one facility.
- This public health order now also includes personal care homes and formalizes existing requirements for long-term care and affiliate care homes:
- All staff members in long-term care, personal care and affiliate care homes must undergo a health screening prior to entry to the facility, including a temperature check.
- At all times while on shift, all staff members in long-term care, personal care, and affiliate care homes shall wear, at minimum, a procedural/surgical mask.
- Additional personal protective equipment may be required to perform care or procedures.
- The screening and personal protective equipment measures also apply to the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency facilities and staff.

More information can be found here: <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/health-care-administration-and-provider-resources/treatment-procedures-and-guidelines/emerging-public-health-issues/2019-novel-coronavirus>

## **Manitoba**

All Manitobans are strongly advised to cancel or postpone any non-essential international travel. Health officials recommend that all international travellers should self-isolate and self-monitor for symptoms for 14 days after returning to Canada. International travellers who have developed cold- or flu-like symptoms within 14 days of returning to Canada should contact Health Links-Info Santé at 204-788-8200 or toll-free at 1-888-315-9257 to be referred for testing at dedicated testing sites. Additionally, health officials continue to recommend cancelling or postponing any large-scale events (events with more than 250 attendees).

Kindergarten to Grade 12 schools will be suspending classes effective March 23 to April 10.

Employers are encouraged to take steps to ensure employees can stay home when ill, without facing barriers such as the requirement for sick notes, and work from home if possible. Employers should also discontinue non-essential, work-related travel outside of Manitoba and encourage virtual meetings to reduce prolonged, close contact between individuals.

### *March 16*

On March 16, the chief public health officer advised that anyone returning home from international travel (including the US) should stay home for 14 days, but drivers are not mandated to self-isolate after crossing the border to ensure essential services continue. Manitobans are also advised to avoid large gatherings.

Daycare facilities remain open, but the decision is being reviewed.

Manitoba patients' surgeries may be postponed if their surgeon has determined their procedure can be safely delayed for three months or longer without any significant effects on their health. Hospital patients can only have one visitor a day and no one with symptoms should visit hospitals or personal care homes.

### *March 17*

On March 17, the Manitoba government announced that licensed child-care centres are suspended effective end-of-day Friday, March 20. Home based child-care providers will continue to operate.

Public health officials are recommending suspension of visitors in long-term care facilities with limited exceptions. Public health officials are also recommending the cancellation of gatherings of more than 50 people.

### *March 18*

On March 18, all hemodialysis patients are advised that they need to continue to go for dialysis treatments.

Starting tomorrow, Employment and Income Assistance clients are asked to contact staff through the call centre whenever possible.

Manitoba Conservation and Climate has cancelled all planned interpreter-led events in Manitoba parks and has closed interpretive centres until further notice.

### *March 19*

Visitor access at all Manitoba hospitals has been suspended. Exceptions for compassionate reasons will continue to be made on a case-by-case basis. One visitor per patient may be admitted with the approval of individual facility managers in some departments. For pediatric patients, one parent or guardian will be allowed to visit at a time following screening.

Agencies that offer day programs through Community Living disABILITY Services for adults with intellectual disabilities have been asked to limit this service as part of the effort to support social distancing efforts and reduce the potential spread of the virus. As soon as possible, day services will only be offered to individuals who:

- live with family members who could lose their job if day services are not provided,
- are supported by home share providers who can't provide care during daytime hours and where other arrangements are not possible, and
- cannot be safely supported in their residence during daytime hours.

Manitoba has not declared a state of emergency, and continues to recommend that Manitobans should avoid gatherings of more than 50 people, stay home where possible, places of worship should not have

big gatherings, and play dates for children should not be arranged. However, these appear to be recommendations and not orders.

### *March 20*

On March 20, Manitoba declared a state of emergency, and the following is effective immediately for a period of 30 days:

- Limiting public gatherings of more than 50 people at any indoor or outdoor place or premises. This includes places of worship, gatherings and family events such as weddings and funerals. This does not apply to a facility where health care or social services are provided. Retail businesses including grocery or food stores, shopping centres, pharmacies or gas stations must ensure separation of one to two metres between patrons assembling in the business. Public transportation facilities must also ensure that people assembling at the facility are reasonably able to maintain a separation of one to two metres from others assembling at the facility.
- Limiting hospitality premises where food or alcohol is served or any theatres offering live performances of music, dance and other art forms as movies theatres to 50 people or 50 per cent of the capacity of the premises, whichever is lesser. These establishments must be able to ensure social distance of one to two metres between customers.
- Immediate closures of all bingo and gaming events.
- Immediate closure of all wellness centres offering physical activities, gyms, fitness centres and athletic clubs and training facilities

At this time, the public health orders apply to public places, not workplaces. However, workplaces should still follow good social distancing practices as recommended by public health including:

- minimizing prolonged (more than 10 minutes), close (less than two metres/six feet) contact between other individuals in public;
- avoiding greetings that involve touching such as handshakes;
- disinfecting frequently used surfaces;
- following public health advice related to self-monitoring and self-isolation if you have travelled or have been exposed to someone ill with the virus; and
- avoiding travel, crowded places and events, especially if you are at higher risk (e.g. seniors and those with underlying medical conditions).

Beginning March 23, Manitoba will begin suspending non-urgent surgical procedures.

Prescription renewals will now be limited to a 30-day supply.

In regards to child care, Manitoba will:

- help early childhood educators affected by the suspension of child-care services in centres to have access to immediate funds to begin independently offering child-care services at their homes or in the community;
- continue to provide licensed child-care centres with their full operating grants and subsidies to provide care for up to 16 children with first priority given to children of health-care and other essential workers;

- create a trust that will provide capital grants to child-care providers to ensure safe, quality care; and
- encourage all centres to reimburse prepaid fees to parents for child care they can no longer access during this difficult time.

Child-care centres are expected to reimburse or offer credits on parent fees that have been collected for dates when care will no longer be offered. Unless care is being provided, parent fees should no longer be charged as of April 1.

Breaking orders can lead to a fine of up to \$50,000 and 6 months in jail for an individual, and a fine of up to \$500,000 for a business.

### *March 23*

The Manitoba School Boards Association has requested all school divisions to close play structures.

Public health officials are strongly advising all Manitobans, including health-care providers, to cancel or postpone any non-essential travel. This includes international travel and **travel within Canada**.

Effective immediately, public health officials are recommending that anyone who returns from travel, either international or **domestic**, should self-isolate and self-monitor for symptoms for 14 days following their return.

This recommendation does not include:

- the commercial transportation of goods and services;
- workers, including health-care workers who live in a neighbouring jurisdiction and travel to Manitoba for work; or
- normal personal travel in border communities including visits to a cottage.

New screening steps will be undertaken in advance of home and community visits. Health-care providers are contacting clients to complete screening in advance of normal appointments. Wherever possible, this screening will occur over the phone but may also be conducted from an appropriate social distance (two metres or six feet) before entry to the home.

### *March 24*

Manitoba reiterates that visitor access at hospitals has been suspended. Exceptions for compassionate and end-of-life reasons will continue to be made on a case-by-case basis and visitors will be appropriately screened for travel, symptoms and exposure to COVID-19. For labour and delivery as well as pediatric patients, one visitor continues to be allowed, with the same stringent screening in place.

Visitor access at long-term care facilities is also subject to significant restrictions, which will now include screening for visitors who have returned from travel outside the province in the last 14 days.

Public health officials are strongly advising all Manitobans, including health-care providers, to cancel or postpone any non-essential travel, including travel within Canada. Public health officials are also recommending that anyone who returns from travel, either international or domestic, should self-isolate and self-monitor for symptoms for 14 days following their return.



This recommendation does not include:

- the commercial transportation of goods and services;
- workers who live in a neighbouring jurisdiction and travel to Manitoba for work;
- health care workers who travel to work from outside the province;
- normal personal travel in border communities, including visits to a cottage.

*March 25*

No updates.

*March 26*

No updates.

*March 27*

On March 27, Manitoba announced that a temporary exception to employment standards regulations will be added to give employers more time to recall employees laid off as a result of COVID-19. Any period of layoff occurring after March 1, 2020, will not be counted toward the period after which a temporary layoff would become a permanent termination. This measure is temporary and specific to situations where employees will eventually be rehired once the COVID-19 crisis has subsided and economic activity picks up again. The province will suspend the exception when the province begins to recover economically. Full details have not been released yet.

Manitoba will also establish checkpoints on highways to provide information to travellers regarding public health measures in the province, the need to immediately self-isolate, but will not deny travellers entry into Manitoba.

Further measures announced include:

- Beginning 12:01 a.m. on Monday, March 30, public gatherings will be limited to no more than 10 people at any indoor or outdoor place or premises, including places of worship, gatherings and family events such as weddings and funerals.
  - This does not apply to a facility where health care or social services are provided including child-care centres and homeless shelters.
- Retail businesses including grocery or food stores, shopping centres, pharmacies or gas stations must ensure separation of one to two metres between patrons assembling in the business.
- Public transportation facilities must also ensure that people assembling at the facility are reasonably able to maintain a separation of one to two metres.

Manitoba also announced a partnership with Morneau Shepell to provide an internet-based Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (iCBT) program free of charge to all Manitobans 16 years old and over.

*March 30*

Announced that measures will take place on April 1.

*March 31*

Manitoba is suspending classroom learning for kindergarten to Grade 12 students indefinitely for this school year.

*April 1*

The following measures will be in place:

- Public gatherings are limited to no more than 10 people at any indoor or outdoor place or premises. This includes places of worship, gatherings and family events such as weddings and funerals.
- All restaurants and other commercial facilities that serve food are prohibited from serving food to customers in their premises, but can prepare and serve food for delivery or takeout. If this takes place, the operator of the restaurant must ensure that all people maintain the appropriate social distancing from other customers when picking up food.
- All businesses that are not listed in the schedule of critical services that accompanies the order must close between April 1 and April 14.
  - This does not prevent these businesses from operating on a remote basis.
  - A business may accept orders on the Internet, or over the phone for delivery or pickup, as long as the employees are not working at the place of business.
  - The order does not prevent employees or others from coming into the business to perform repairs, to provide security services or to take out items from the business premises if the business is going to operate on a remote basis.
- All businesses listed in the schedule of critical services that accompanies the order may continue to operate. Critical services include a business that services or repairs vehicles, aircraft, watercraft, bicycles and includes **car, truck and farm equipment dealerships** and related facilities and auto supply stores and other similar retail businesses. If these business allow members of the public to attend the place of business, the operator of the business must put in place measures to ensure that appropriate social distancing rules are followed.
- The order does not affect how members of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Manitoba, the College of Registered Nurses of Manitoba, the College of Licensed Practical Nurses of Manitoba or the College of Midwives of Manitoba provide health-care services under the order. Any other health professionals may continue to practice if they are providing services for a publicly funded agency, such as a government or a regional health authority, or a business listed under the schedule. In addition, health-care providers can continue to provide emergent or urgent care such as dental surgery.
- Municipal transit services, taxis and other private vehicles for hire can continue to operate. The operator of the vehicle must take measures to ensure there is a reasonable separation of people in a vehicle. This order does not contain specific distance restrictions because it is hard to impose a limit in small vehicles. The goal is to ensure a reasonable level of spacing between people.

Manitoba clarified that all non-exempt businesses may:

- continue to operate where customers can order goods online or by telephone; however, customers cannot attend the businesses' premises or property to order goods;

- continue to sell goods to customers where those goods can be picked up ‘curbside’ or delivered to customers; however, customers cannot pick up goods at businesses’ premises or on its property;
- allow staff to attend the businesses’ premises, without a limitation on the number of staff, as long as staff take measures to keep social distancing of one to two metres apart from each other; and
- accept delivery of goods and may allow services, such as construction, repairs, maintenance and cleaning to occur at their premises and on their property.

#### *April 2*

Manitoba is implementing new screening procedures for staff working in acute and long-term care facilities, including asking staff about travel history, exposure to COVID-19 positive cases, any symptoms they may have and having their temperature taken at the start of their shift. Staff who are required to come and go during the course of their shift may be re-screened upon re-entry into facilities and service areas.

Public health is also advising that people remain within or close to their home communities. This includes limiting travel, even within Manitoba, to essential trips only.

#### *April 3*

As part of the Manitoba Protection Plan, the province is providing the following protections for the next six months until Oct. 1:

- instructing Manitoba Hydro, Centra Gas and Manitoba Public Insurance (MPI) to not charge interest or penalties in the event that Manitobans are unable to pay at this time;
- instructing MPI to relax ordinary practices on policy renewals and collections;
- instructing Manitoba Liquor and Lotteries not to charge interest on receivables from restaurants, bars and specialty wine stores;
- supporting Workers Compensation Board (WCB) to do the same and asking WCB to extend relief from penalties for late payments;
- directing Manitoba Hydro and Centra Gas to not disconnect customers during these times; and
- working with municipal partners to ensure municipalities do not charge interest on provincial education taxes and school division fees and the province is encouraging municipalities to do the same with respect to their own taxes and will start discussions to support implementation.

Provincial income tax and corporate income tax filing deadlines and payments are deferred to coincide with the current revised federal deferral of income tax to Aug. 31. The government has indicated it would be willing to extend these deferrals until Oct. 1, should the federal government agree.

The new measures are in addition to the recently announced two-month deferral for small businesses that remit up to \$10,000 in Manitoba payroll tax or \$10,000 in sales tax.

#### *April 6*

No updates.

### *April 7*

On April 7, Manitoba announced that effective April 1, all repayments of loans under the Manitoba Student Aid Program as been suspended through Sept. 30. Manitoba is also asking businesses and individuals who are able to provide products or services to contact the provincial government immediately and see how they are able to help.

### *April 8*

No updates.

### *April 9*

Manitoba announced that effective immediately, breaking the public health orders can result in fines of \$486 for individuals and \$2,542 for businesses. The Manitoba Legislative Assembly is also expected to be recalled on April 15 to discuss further measures.

### *April 10 – April 13*

Manitoba will be extending the public health orders issued on March 30 for two weeks. The orders that were to expire on April 14 are now extended to April 28, 2020, with the following measures remaining in effect:

- Public gatherings are limited to no more than 10 people at any indoor or outdoor place or premises. This includes places of worship, gatherings and family events such as weddings and funerals. This does not apply to a facility where health-care or social services are provided including child-care centres and homeless shelters.
- All restaurants and other commercial facilities that serve food are prohibited from serving food to customers in their premises. This prevents eat-in dining at all facilities. However, restaurants and other commercial facilities can prepare and serve food for delivery or takeout. If this takes place, the operator of the restaurant must ensure that all people maintain the appropriate social distancing from other customers when picking up food.
- All businesses that are not listed in the schedule of critical services that accompanies the order must remain closed.
  - This closure order does not prevent these businesses from operating on a remote basis.
  - A business may accept orders on the Internet, or over the phone for delivery or pickup, as long as the employees are not working at the place of business.
  - The order does not prevent employees or others from coming into the business to perform repairs, to provide security services or to take out items from the business premises if the business is going to operate on a remote basis.
  - Nothing in the order restricts the operations of delivery of services by the federal or provincial governments or a municipality.
  - Nothing in the order restricts any activities of a publicly funded agency, organization or authority that delivers or supports government operations or services, including health-care services. This means the order does not affect institutions, agencies and other service providers who provide health-care services such as hospitals, regional health authorities and private agencies who provide a range of health services.

#### *April 14*

Manitoba has extended its public health orders. Businesses that are not included on the list of critical services must remain closed to the public until April 28. However, these businesses can:

- continue to operate where customers can order goods online or by telephone. However, customers cannot attend the businesses' premises or property to order goods.
- continue to sell goods to customers where those goods can be picked up 'curbside' or delivered to customers. However, customers cannot pick up goods at businesses' premises or on its property.
- allow staff to attend the businesses' premises, without a limitation on the number of staff, as long as staff take measures to keep social distancing of one to two metres apart from each other.
- accept delivery of goods and may allow services, such as construction, repairs, maintenance and cleaning to occur at their premises and on their property.

Manitoba has also announced it will provide health-care staff paid administrative leave for the full 14-day period of asymptomatic self-isolation. Should a worker become symptomatic during self-isolation, the individual will be compensated by sick leave benefits pursuant to their collective agreement.

#### *April 15*

Manitoba announced that it is tabling additional spending authority of up to \$1 billion of COVID-19 pandemic-related spending, and requested it to be allocated as follows:

- \$500 million for the Health Services Insurance Fund,
- \$400 million for the internal service adjustments appropriations of government, and
- \$100 million for emergency expenditures.

#### *April 16 – April 17*

Manitoba issued a new Public Health Order that takes effect on April 17, 2020 until May 1, 2020. Anyone entering Manitoba, regardless of whether it was from another country or another province must self-isolate for 14 days. The exceptions are limited to:

- a) persons who are transporting goods and materials into or through Manitoba, if they are not displaying any symptoms of COVID-19;
- b) persons who are engaged in providing vital services in Manitoba, including health care providers, police officers, emergency services personnel, corrections officers, members of the Canadian Armed Forces, social service workers, elected officials and their staff, as well as workers engaged in the construction or maintenance of critical infrastructure, if they are not displaying any symptoms of COVID-19;
- c) aircraft and train crew members, if they are not displaying any symptoms of COVID-19;
- d) persons who are travelling into Manitoba to facilitate shared parenting arrangements under a custody order or agreement, including any child accompanying them, if they are not displaying any symptoms of COVID-19;
- e) persons travelling into Manitoba for emergency medical purposes;
- f) persons who reside in communities outside Manitoba that are located within 50 kilometres of the Manitoba border and Manitoba residents who do not travel more than 50 kilometres

outside Manitoba before returning to Manitoba if they are not displaying any symptoms of COVID-19.

Travel to northern Manitoba (north of the 53rd parallel of latitude) and to remote communities that are not connected to the provincial highway system by a year-round all-weather road is prohibited except:

- a) a person who resides in northern Manitoba or a remote community;
- b) a person who is travelling into northern Manitoba or a remote community in order to establish their permanent residence;
- c) a person travelling into northern Manitoba or a remote community in the course of their duties with, or while providing services to or on behalf of,
  - i. the Government of Canada,
  - ii. the Government of Manitoba, or
  - iii. a crown corporation or other government agency;
- d) a health care provider who is travelling into northern Manitoba or a remote community to provide health care services;
- e) a person who owns, operates or is employed by a business listed in the Schedule to this Order who is travelling into northern Manitoba or a remote community
  - i. to deliver goods or provide services normally provided by that business, or
  - ii. to engage in activities that the business normally conducts in northern Manitoba or a remote community;
- f) a person who is travelling into northern Manitoba or a remote community
- g) to facilitate shared parenting arrangements under a custody order or agreement, or
- h) in the course of their duties with a child and family services authority, along with any child travelling with the person;
- i) a person who is travelling into northern Manitoba or a remote community for emergency medical purposes.

The gathering size remains at no more than 10 people at any indoor or outdoor premises. Hotels may operate, but must close common areas such as pools, hot tubs and game rooms; campgrounds can provide accommodation to recreational vehicles that act as a primary residence; and garden centres and farmer's markets can operate, providing social distancing measures are in place.

The following restrictions remain in place as they were with previous orders:

- All restaurants and other commercial facilities are prohibited from serving food to customers in their premises. This prevents eat-in dining at all facilities. However, restaurants and other commercial facilities can prepare and serve food for delivery or takeout. If this takes place, the operator of the restaurant must ensure that all persons maintain the appropriate social distancing from other customers when picking up food.
- All businesses that are not listed in the schedule of vital services in the order must remain closed. **(Car Dealerships are still listed as a vital service).**
- This closure order does not prevent these businesses from operating on a remote basis.
- A business may accept orders on the Internet, or over the phone for delivery or pickup.
- The order does not prevent employees or others from coming into the business to perform repairs, to provide security services or to take out items from the business premises if the business is going to operate on a remote basis.

- Nothing in the order restricts the operations of delivery of services by the federal or provincial governments or a municipality.
- Nothing in the order restricts any activities of an agency, organization or authority that delivers or supports government operations or services, including health-care services, such as Shared Health Inc. regional health authorities, hospitals, and personal care homes. The order also provides for private businesses, which provide health services such as home care, personal support services, and emergency medical response services to continue to operate.

More information can be found here: <https://www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/index.html>

## **New Brunswick**

All travellers arriving in Canada from international points as of March 13, 2020 is required self-isolate for 14 days. All individuals who have travelled internationally on or after March 9 are to avoid early learning and childcare centres for a period of 14 days.

New Brunswick's chief medical officer recommends postponing or cancelling any events with more than 150 people.

Effective Monday, March 16, all schools across the province will be closed for two weeks. This closure will be reassessed on an ongoing basis.

### *March 16*

On March 16, the premier is looking to Ottawa to help parents financially for staying home with their children.

The premier also declared all non-essential government services will be shut down on March 17 until further notice.

The chief medical officer recommends (which will take effect March 17) that:

- private sector companies encourage their employees to work from home wherever feasible and focus on critical activities;
- child-care providers close with the exception of those that provide services to essential service workers such as health-care workers;
- the following businesses and public spaces be closed effective tomorrow, Tuesday, March 17, until further notice:
  - libraries;
  - museums;
  - theatres;
  - performance spaces;
  - swimming pools, spas, saunas and water parks;
  - recreational sites such as ski resorts, amusement parks, trampoline centres, etc.;
  - cinemas and arcades;
  - training centres and dance, spinning, zumba and yoga centres;
  - arenas;
  - indoor soccer centres;
  - zoos;

- aquariums;
- bars et discotheques;
- restaurants that offer buffets;
- sugar bush operations open to the public.

Public Health is also asking restaurant owners to limit the number of customers to 50 per cent of the capacity of their dining areas. Take-out orders, deliveries and drive-through services are permitted.

Horizon Health and Vitalité health networks are reducing surgical access, except for urgent procedures such as limb-saving and cancer surgeries.

#### *March 17*

On March 17, the premier advised that grocery stores and pharmacies have access to supplies and will remain open.

#### *March 18*

On March 18, the Chief Medical Officer advised that some New Brunswickers are not following the government's advice to stay home, and the Premier advised that mandatory measures could follow. The Premier also advised against playdates, joyriding in vehicles filled with people, sleepovers, and getting together with friends to watch movies.

The Premier announced that parents will not be charged while daycares are closed.

Horizon Health Network is cancelling all non-urgent services. The New Brunswick Dental Society announced that all non-essential and elective dental procedures are suspended. The province has also ordered pharmacists to provide medication for no more than 30 days at a time to patients.

Starting Wednesday, Fredericton Transit has switched to operating on a Saturday schedule. Buses will run every hour. Codiac Transpo services in Moncton will modify schedules starting Friday. From Monday to Saturday, all transit services will end at 6:30 pm. Sunday will remain unchanged. Saint John Transit will suspend all fare collection on all of its services starting Thursday.

#### *March 19*

On March 19, New Brunswick declared a state of emergency. New Brunswick has now **declared**:

- All food and beverage businesses will be reduced to take-out and delivery service only.
- All lounges and special facilities licensed under the *Liquor Control Act* will stop admitting patrons.
- All swimming pools, spas, saunas, waterparks, gymnasiums, yoga studios, dance studios, rinks and arenas, tennis courts, soccer and baseball fields, climbing walls, escape rooms, ski hills, golf courses, arcades, amusement centres, pool halls, bowling alleys, casinos, cinemas, libraries, museums, zoos, aquariums, barbers, hair stylists, esthetics service providers, sugar bush operations, and theatres or other live performance venues will stop admitting members of the public.
- Schools, colleges, universities and private schools must be closed to students. Institutions which have students in residence are permitted to allow them to remain in residence until they can safely return home. Online course delivery may continue.



- All businesses in retail sales will stop admitting patrons, **except**: grocery stores; pharmacies; repair garages; post offices; financial and lending institutions; retailers of fuel, hardware and automotive parts; convenience stores; animal and fish feed providers; and corporate and agency stores of NB Liquor and Cannabis NB.
- All businesses required to stop admitting patrons are permitted to sell online or over the phone and to arrange delivery or pick-up of purchases.
- Every person directed by a physician to self-isolate will obey.
- Every person who has been outside Canada will self-isolate within their home for 14 days after their return to Canada, and, if they experience symptoms of COVID-19 during that period, will remain self-isolated until they are free of symptoms. This requirement does not apply to people exempted by the chief medical officer of health.
- Owners and operators of all other premises at which people may gather in large numbers will take all reasonable steps to prevent gatherings of more than 10 people.
- All regulated health services providers will cease operations unless the services to be provided are to address essential health care or an emergency health-care situation.
- All unregulated health services providers, with the exception of those that are providing direct support to regulated health services providers, shall cease operations immediately.
- Owners and managers of all workplaces and organizers of all activities will take every reasonable step to ensure minimal interaction of people within 2 metres of each other and carry out advice to minimize risk as issued by the chief medical officer of health.
- All owners and managers of all workplaces will reduce to critical functions and will take every reasonable step required to prevent people who exhibit symptoms of COVID-19 from entering the workplace, in accordance with advice issued by the chief medical officer of health or WorkSafe New Brunswick. They will also take every reasonable step required to prevent people from entering work-places who have travelled internationally in the previous 14 days.
- All licences, registrations, certificates and permits issued by the Province of New Brunswick valid as of March 16, 2020, shall remain valid until May 31, 2020 unless suspended by a court or by other authority under an Act of the Province.
- The right of landlords under section 19 of the *Residential Tenancies Act* to require tenants to vacate for non-payment of rent, and the authority of residential tenancies officers under section 22 of that act to evict tenants for the same reason, are suspended, until May 31, 2020.
- Construction activities will continue and that they are not prohibited under this declaration.

### March 20

On March 20, New Brunswick set up a new online tool to assess symptoms.

Canadians returning home from other countries must self-isolate for 14 days, and must not go to the grocery store when they return.

Businesses that are open must take precautions to keep their workers safe. This includes social distancing, providing a clean working environment, and any other precautions needed to keep workers healthy and safe. Employers need to take precautionary measures to reduce the level of exposure: practice good workplace hygiene; and allow workers to work remotely if possible. Public Health is preparing a questionnaire that employers can use to screen workers, customers and other members of the public before they enter.

WorkSafeNB is deferring premiums for businesses for three months.

Though business property taxes must be paid by May 31, late penalties will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis to see if the penalty can be waived due to undue financial challenges, such as having to close a business due to COVID-19.

The following retail sales lines of business are expected to stop admitting patrons immediately, but remain free to sell online and by the phone and to maintain pickup and delivery activities: electronics, furniture, appliance, vehicle.

**Automobile dealers** are not required to cease their garage/service centre service operations, and online/phone sales and pickup/delivery activities are permitted. Showrooms must close to patrons and the public and test drives must cease.

For child care services, New Brunswick has committed to covering the fees of anyone who has lost their income due to the ongoing COVID-19 outbreak, and will continue to provide parent subsidies as scheduled. Essential service workers will not have to pay double fees for their child care services. Parents must continue to pay to hold their space at a centre that has not laid off its staff.

New Brunswick has also changed the deadline to when school closures would end. It announced that the K-12 school system will now be closed until further notice, and the status will be reassessed during the first week of April. Parents are advised that they should not expect home learning options until April at the earliest.

#### *March 23*

For the duration of the emergency, patients with drug coverage under New Brunswick's public drug plans will only be responsible for the initial co-payment on a prescription fill or refill.

#### *March 24*

New Brunswick announced that it will provide a one-time income benefit to either workers or self-employed people in New Brunswick who have lost their job due to the state of emergency. This one-time \$900 benefit will be administered through the Red Cross and will help to bridge the time between when people lose their employment or close their business and to when they receive their federal benefit. Details will follow in coming days.

#### *March 25*

The Government of New Brunswick announced that people entering New Brunswick from another province must self-isolate for 14 days. People travelling through New Brunswick will be tracked to ensure they are travelling through. If they do not comply, they can be charged with a fine up to \$10,000. All unnecessary travel into New Brunswick is prohibited, and peace officers will turn visitors away.

#### *March 26*

On March 26, New Brunswick announced that it will provide a benefit to bridge the gap between when a person lost their job or closed their business after March 15, to when the national benefit takes effect. The objective will be to provide access to the benefit before the end of March. The benefit will end on April 30.

New Brunswick also announced that legislative and regulatory amendments will be introduced to provide job protection for workers who must take a leave of absence due to COVID-19. It will allow an unpaid

leave of up to 15 weeks to New Brunswickers who have COVID-19 or are caring for someone with the virus.

The province will also help businesses continue to operate including:

- WorkSafeNB is deferring the collection of assessment premiums for three months.
- On a case-by-case basis, the provincial government will defer loan and interest repayments for existing business loans with government departments for up to six months.
- Small business owners will be eligible for loans up to \$200,000. They will not be required to pay principal on their loan for up to 12 months.
- Working capital of more than \$200,000 to help medium-sized to large employers manage the effects of COVID-19 on their operations.

New Brunswick will also cover the cost of COVID-19 services for uninsured people who do not meet the criteria for Medicare coverage. Anyone currently living in New Brunswick, regardless of their current Medicare eligibility status, will be covered by Medicare for any care or service necessary for the treatment of all emergency medical conditions.

#### *March 27*

New Brunswick announced a program to assist workers and self-employed individuals in New Brunswick who have lost their jobs as a result of the province's COVID-19 state of emergency. The Red Cross will have a website online at noon on March 30. It will be a one-time payment of \$900 and will begin on April 2.

All school playgrounds and playgrounds associated with public housing facilities, are closed to support physical distancing requirements.

Businesses that are allowed to be open must limit the number of customers on their premises to maintain physical distancing rules and must check that customers entering are not among those required to be in self-isolation. Failing to comply could result in enforcement by the Department of Public Safety or a stop-work order by WorkSafeNB.

#### *March 30*

The one-time income benefit of \$900 is available for workers or self-employed people residing in New Brunswick who have lost their job due to the state of emergency. The benefit will end on April 30, 2020.

#### *March 31*

No updates.

#### *April 1*

No updates.

#### *April 2*

New Brunswick amended its state of emergency declaration to prohibit anyone from knowingly approaching within six feet of another person, except members of their household or as needed for work. Owners and occupiers of land must take all reasonable steps to prevent social or recreational gatherings.

Campgrounds have been added to the list of business operations that are prohibited from admitting patrons for a two-week period. Owners and managers of premises that permit the seasonal docking of multiple recreational vessels must either prohibit docking or take steps to ensure minimal interaction of people.

Schools in New Brunswick will remain closed for the rest of the school year. .

Nursing homes workers will be screened for COVID-19 symptoms and have their temperatures taken before starting their shifts. Provincial government employees are also having their temperatures checked every day.

#### *April 3*

All provincial parks as well as playgrounds province-wide are closed. If municipalities are going to keep their parks and trails open, they must have mechanisms in place to ensure that the limitations on the number of people that can gather is enforced. Appropriate signage must be put up at access points to identify limitations on gatherings and the requirements for physical distancing. The province clarified that the mandatory order under the *Emergency Measures Act* suspends the right for landlords to evict tenants for non-payment of rent, through to May 31.

#### *April 6*

No updates.

#### *April 7*

The deadline to apply for the one-time \$900 benefit for people who lost their jobs or had to close their business because of the COVID-19 outbreak will be April 9 at 8 p.m.

#### *April 8*

Small, medium and large employers in New Brunswick whose businesses have been impacted by COVID-19 can now apply for loans for working capital at [https://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/gateways/for\\_business/covid19.html](https://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/gateways/for_business/covid19.html).

Applications for the New Brunswick Workers Emergency Income Benefit will end at 8 p.m. on Thursday, April 9.

#### *April 9*

Applications for the New Brunswick Workers Emergency Income Benefit have closed. All recreational fishing seasons and the spring bear hunting season have been delayed to at least May 1.

#### *April 10 – April 13*

New Brunswick announced that testing would now be recommended for people exhibiting at least two of the following five symptoms:

- fever above 38°C;
- a new cough or worsening chronic cough;
- sore throat;
- runny nose; and

- headache.

Those who are exhibiting at least two of these symptoms are advised to immediately self-isolate and contact 811 or their family physician for further direction.

New Brunswick has also expanded restrictions on nursing homes, including:

- Not allowing visitors.
- Implementing advanced screening processes for staff prior to their entering work, including taking everyone's temperature and requiring that several screening questions be answered.
- Instructing on-site physicians and clinical staff to care for residents whenever possible, to avoid any unnecessary transfers to hospitals.
- Ongoing training for nursing home staff on the proper use of personal protective equipment, and the directive that all staff with direct patient contact are required to use this equipment.

*April 14 – April 15*

No updates.

*April 16 – April 17*

New Brunswick formally extended its state of emergency, and clarified parts of the emergency order, including that restaurants offering take-out must ensure physical distancing of customers who are on the premises waiting for their food, and that property owners must take steps to prevent gatherings. Gardening and agricultural retailers are allowed to reopen on April 16. New Brunswick also announced that at the request of restaurant owners, restaurants with a licence will be allowed to sell liquor off their menu for take-out or delivery. Owners will need to ensure they do not sell liquor to minors.

New Brunswick also amended the *Employment Standards Act* to provide for a job-protected leave if it is necessary in the opinion of the Lieutenant-Governor in Council in the following circumstances:

- a) when the Minister of Public Safety declares a state of emergency under the *Emergency Measures Act* in respect to all or any area of the Province;
- b) when the Governor in Council declares a public welfare emergency, a public order emergency, an international emergency or a war emergency under the *Emergencies Act* (Canada);
- c) when the Governor in Council makes an order under section 58 of the *Quarantine Act* (Canada);
- d) in any circumstance relating to
  - i) a notifiable disease prescribed by regulation under the *Public Health Act* or declared to be a notifiable disease in an order of the Minister of Health or the chief medical officer of health, as the case may be,
  - ii) a notifiable event prescribed by regulation under the *Public Health Act*, or
  - iii) any other threat to public health.

More information can be found here:

[https://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/departments/ocmoh/cdc/content/respiratory\\_diseases/coronavirus.html](https://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/departments/ocmoh/cdc/content/respiratory_diseases/coronavirus.html)

## **Nova Scotia**

Anyone who has travelled outside Canada is required to self-isolate for 14 days upon return, even if the individual is symptom-free.

Public schools will be closed for two weeks following March Break (weeks of March 23 and March 30). Long-term care facilities are closed to all visitors. Regulated child care centres will be closed starting March 17 through April 3. Smaller operations of childcare with six children or fewer of any age or eight children or fewer of school age can continue to operate.

Organizations and businesses are required to practise social distancing of two metres (6 feet) and keep gatherings below 150 or much smaller, if possible. The Government of Nova Scotia recommends employers to speak with employees about flexible hours or alternative work arrangements if they need to stay home, and not to ask them for doctors' notes if they get sick or need to self-isolate.

#### *March 16*

On March 16, municipally owned recreation facilities, community centres and arenas in Halifax will close until further notice and all municipal in-person events have been postponed.

#### *March 17*

On March 17, it was announced that by Thursday, restaurants will be limited to take-out and delivery only, and bars will be closed. The limit on public gatherings has also been lowered from 150 to 50. Service Nova Scotia will close its Access Centres for one week beginning Wednesday. Non-urgent medical services are suspended.

#### *March 18*

On March 18, the Health Minister announced that employers are no longer allowed to require doctor sick notes from employees.

Nova Scotia Health Authority is suspending some elective and non-urgent appointments and services. IWK Health Centre is suspending all non-urgent appointments and services. Urgent and emergency appointments and services are continuing. Nova Scotia Health Authority and the IWK Health Centre are limiting visitors to prevent the spread of any respiratory illness, including COVID-19.

Personal services and fitness establishments such as hair salons, barber shops, spas, nail salons, and gyms are closed. Service providers funded through the Community Services Department's disabilities support program, including social enterprises and day programs are also closed.

The Provincial Dental Board of Nova Scotia has ordered closure for dentists.

Reminder that organizations and businesses are required to practise social distancing of two metres (6 feet). As of Thursday:

- Restaurants are restricted to take-out and delivery orders only. They can't open for in-person dining.
- All drinking establishments, winery and distillery tasting rooms and craft taprooms must close.
- Private liquor stores can still operate. Craft breweries, wineries and distilleries can still sell their products from their storefronts.

### *March 19*

Measures announced on March 19 include:

- investing \$2.2 million so that every individual and family member on income assistance will receive an additional \$50 starting Friday, March 20, to help pay for food, cleaning supplies and personal care items. People do not need to apply
- \$1 million to help Feed Nova Scotia purchase food and hire more staff
- no tenant can be evicted because their income has been impacted by COVID-19, effective immediately for the next three months
- emergency funding of \$230,000 for Senior Safety Programs and Community Links to help vulnerable older adults
- university students from Nova Scotia who are still living in residences need to go home, to provide space for social distancing for those students from outside the province who are not able to travel

Anyone who has travelled outside of Canada must self-isolate for 14 days when they return to Nova Scotia.

### *March 20*

Government will defer payments until June 30 for:

- all government loans, including those under the Farm Loan Board, Fisheries and Aquaculture Loan Board, Jobs Fund, Nova Scotia Business Fund, Municipal Finance Corp. and Housing Nova Scotia.
- small business fees, including business renewal fees and **workers compensation premiums** (a list of fees will be posted online early next week)

Changes to the Small Business Loan Guarantee Program, administered through credit unions, include:

- deferring principal and interest payments until June 30
- enhancing the program to make it easier for businesses to access credit up to \$500,000
- those who might not qualify for a loan, government will guarantee the first \$100,000

Further measures include:

- small businesses which do business with the government will be paid within five days instead of the standard 30 days
- suspending payments on Nova Scotia student loans for six months, from March 30 to Sept. 30 and students do not have to apply
- ensuring more Nova Scotians can access the internet to work from home, by providing \$15 million as an incentive to providers to speed up projects under the Internet for Nova Scotia Initiative and complete them as soon as possible

### *March 23*

Nova Scotia declared a state of emergency on March 22, and will be in effect for 14 days and may be renewed. Under the [Order](#):

- Effective March 23, 2020 at 6:00 a.m., all persons residing in or present in the Province of Nova Scotia who:
  - enter Nova Scotia;
  - are identified as a close contact of a person who has or has been diagnosed with COVID-19;

- are identified as a person diagnosed with COVID-19; or
- have been tested for COVID-19 and are awaiting the results of their test;
- Must:
  - Remain in self-quarantine or self-isolation, as the case may be, for: the period commencing on the day you enter Nova Scotia or the first day of close contact, or first day of symptoms, testing, or diagnosis, and continuing thereafter for 14 consecutive calendar days or as directed by a medical officer of health.
  - Remain in your residence or residence grounds. Specifically, do not enter any buildings, public transportation, or other enclosed spaces (other than your residence) where other people are present.
- All persons present and residing in Nova Scotia must maintain social distancing of two metres or six feet and keep social gatherings to 5 persons or less.
- Provincial parks, beaches, and tourist attractions are closed. Provincial trails will remain open for exercise.

Other restrictions include:

- Gathering limits and social distancing guidelines must be followed.
- Essential businesses exempt from gathering limits include but are not limited to grocery stores, gas stations, pharmacies, construction sites, health-care services, community services (e.g. child protection) and criminal justice services, law enforcement, financial institutions, agri-food and fish plants, and Canadian Blood Services blood collection clinics.

The following restrictions are in place under the Authority of the Health Protection Act:

- There are to be no social gatherings of more than 5 people.
- **Any workplace or business that is not deemed essential (or not already required to be closed) can remain open as long as a two-metre (6 foot) distance can be maintained. Workspaces must also be cleaned and disinfected at a minimum of twice daily or as required and employees follow proper hygiene.**
- Organization carrying on business in Nova Scotia that cannot, due to its physical size, maintain the social distancing requirement must limit the number of customers or clients on its premises to no more than 5 persons at a time.
- Public schools will be closed for the weeks of 23 March and 30 March.
- All licensed childcare providers are required to close (through 3 April inclusive).
- Restaurants are restricted to take-out and delivery orders only.
- Any restaurant that cannot comply with the social distancing requirements may continue to provide take-out and delivery service with minimum staffing required to maintain operations
- All drinking establishments, winery and distillery tasting rooms, and craft taprooms must close; private liquor stores can operate, and craft breweries, wineries, and distilleries can still sell their products from their storefronts.
- Casinos in Halifax and Sydney are closed; bar owners can no longer operate VLTs.
- Dentists can no longer practice dentistry in their offices unless they deem it necessary to perform an emergency dental procedure in the best interest of the patient's health.
- Personal services, like hair salons, barber shops, spas, nail salons, and body art establishments must close.
- All fitness establishments, like gyms, must close.



- Long-term care facilities are closed to all visitors.
- Effective March 23, 2020 all golf courses must close during the period this Order remains in effect.
- Police are authorized to enforce orders under the Health Protection Act. If Nova Scotians and businesses do not practice social distancing and self-isolation, they will face fines of \$1,000 for individuals and \$7,500 for businesses. Multiple fines can be given each day an individual or business fails to comply. Police can also enforce offences under the Emergency Management Act. For example, fines for charging higher than fair market prices for goods and services.

Other directives from government include:

- Employers cannot require a doctor's note if an employee must be off work.
- No tenant can be evicted because their income has been impacted by COVID-19 (effective for next 3 months).
- University students from Nova Scotia who are still living in residences need to go home, to provide space for social distancing for those students from outside the province who are not able to travel.
- All day programs, supported employment and social enterprise service providers funded through the Department of Community Services' Disability Support Program have been asked to close.

*March 24*

Nova Scotia reiterated previous measures today:

- expanding virtual care for physicians, nurse practitioners and others so they can offer appointments to patients through telephone or video, minimizing the need to leave the house; more than 80 providers have signed up for video so far
- enhanced infection control measures at hospitals to protect health-care workers and the public include reassigning and adding new staff to increase the frequency of cleaning and disinfection; focusing on high-risk areas and high-traffic areas and high-touch surfaces; using stronger cleaning products
- regulated health professions can only stay open for emergency or urgent cases or to provide virtual care (excluding doctors, pharmacists, nurse practitioners, nurses and paramedics) as long as they can meet social distancing requirements in their waiting room or other non-clinical areas and follow the cleaning protocol
- non-regulated health professions (such as naturopaths) must close. One exception is podiatrists who must follow the directive related to regulated health professions
- Access Centres and Registry of Motor Vehicle Offices will start to resume operations in a scaled back, limited contact business model.

Essential service sectors in Nova Scotia, which are exempt from the five-person-or-fewer gathering rules, have been clarified and are:

- health
- food, agri-food and fisheries
- transportation, including trucking, rail and transit
- construction and manufacturing

- IT, telecommunications and critical infrastructure
- public services, such as police, fire and ambulances

Individual business in these sectors must still maintain social distancing and other public health protocols.

*March 25*

No update.

*March 26*

No update.

*March 27*

Nova Scotia announced additional measures today:

- Landlords who grant businesses that had to close due to the public health order a three month deferral can register by April 3 to be able to claim losses of up to \$5,000 per month, if the renting business does not continue operating.
- Landlords are not permitted to change locks or seize property of businesses who cannot pay rent, if the business closed directly because of COVID-19 public health orders.
- Retail and commercial landlords are encouraged to defer lease payments for the next three months for businesses that had to close directly due to the public health order.
- Up to 800 iPads will be distributed to long-term care homes so residents can connect with family and friends.
- Restaurants will be allowed to include alcohol purchases with takeout and delivery orders as long as the alcohol cost is not more than three times the value of food ordered, effective March 30.

*March 30*

All public schools and licensed child care providers will remain closed until at least May 1.

*March 31*

No updates.

*April 1*

No updates.

*April 2*

Nova Scotia announced new support measures:

- Worker Emergency Bridge Fund for the self-employed and laid-off workers who do not qualify for Employment Insurance. It will be a one-time, \$1,000 payment, to bridge the gap between layoffs and closures and the federal government's Canada Emergency Response Benefit
- Small Business Impact Grant: Eligible small businesses and social enterprises will receive a grant of 15 per cent of their revenue from sales -- either from April 2019 or February 2020, up to a maximum of \$5,000. This flexible, one-time, upfront grant can be used for any purpose necessary

- Eligibility for the programs is not affected by a person or business being enrolled in another provincial program or the federal initiatives.

The current state of emergency is extended until noon, April 19.

*April 3*

No updates.

*April 6*

New measures announced today:

- removing travel as a requirement to be referred for testing for COVID-19 now that community spread is present in Nova Scotia.
- Licensed long-term care homes to follow measures to further prevent the introduction of the virus into these homes and to reduce its spread if introduced to the facility, including cleaning, monitoring of residents and staff, testing, and reporting.

*April 7*

No updates.

*April 8*

No updates.

*April 9*

Measures announced today include:

- applications for the Worker Emergency Bridge Fund and Small Business Impact Grant will be available and accepted starting Friday, April 10. Applications for small business will be online at 8 a.m. A toll-free phone line for applications for the worker fund will be open starting at 8 a.m. Call 1-800-863-6582 after checking eligibility online. See <https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/#support> for more information.
- payment for more than 480 small-business fees will be deferred until June 30 to keep cash in small business hands
- to help people who need additional supports, 211 will launch Saturday, April 11, a new service to connect people needing COVID-19 assistance with the Canadian Red Cross. The Red Cross will act as a navigator to link people to the services they need. In addition, the Red Cross will offer wellness check-ins for Nova Scotians who are isolated and experiencing loneliness and anxiety
- private campgrounds must close until May 1, when the measure will be reassessed
- only veterinarians working with the SPCA may carry out spay and neuter surgeries
- the order under the *Health Protection Act* has been amended to require workers in the fishing and offshore industries to self-isolate when they enter the province

*April 10 – 13*

Nova Scotia expanded its testing criteria. If individuals have two or more of the following symptoms, they are to visit <https://811.novascotia.ca/> to determine if you should call 811 for further assessment:

- fever
- new or worsening cough
- sore throat
- runny nose
- headache

*April 14 – April 15*

No updates.

*April 16 – April 17*

No updates.

More information can be found here: <https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/>

### **Ontario**

The Ontario Ministry of Health updated their guidance on March 18, 2020 and now indicates anyone who has travelled outside Canada should:

- self-isolate for 14 days when they return. People who are self-isolating should not go to work
- monitor themselves for symptoms of the 2019 novel coronavirus for 14 days after returning to Canada
- contact Telehealth Ontario at 1-866-797-0000 or their local public health unit if they experience symptoms of the 2019 novel coronavirus

In addition, the Ontario Ministry of Health indicates the following:

- workers who have travelled and are part of workplaces that are essential to daily living are able to return to work as long as they do not have symptoms. However, they should self-monitor for a period of 14 days and identify themselves to their employer so that a plan can be put into place to ensure the protection of those workplaces
- children under the age of 16 years who have travelled outside of Canada should also self-isolate for a period of 14 days. Parents should actively monitor their children's symptoms. Children who are self-isolating should stay at home and avoid social gathering points such as community centres or parks

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/2019-novel-coronavirus>

*March 19th to April 17th*

In a [2:25pm March 19, 2020 press release](#), the Ontario government summarized the emergency sitting in which two pieces of legislation received unanimous consent.

- In brief, the *Employment Standards Amendment Act (Infectious Disease Emergencies), 2020* provides (unpaid) job-protected leave for employees who are in isolation or quarantine due to COVID-19, or those who need to be away from work to care for children because of school or day care closures or to care for other relatives. These measures are retroactive to January 25, 2020. The legislation makes it clear employees cannot be required to show sick notes. The backgrounder

for this legislation is [here](#) and the actual legislation can be found [here](#). Of particular note, employers and workers in the health sector should be following the Ministry of Health [COVID-19 Guidance for the Health Sector](#). Workers in other settings should be following the Ministry of Health's recommendations on how to protect yourself. The most up-to-date information on how individuals can protect themselves and what to do if they suspect they may be at risk can be found at [Ontario.ca/coronavirus](http://Ontario.ca/coronavirus). Further, the press release provides that employers are required to report all occupational illnesses, including COVID-19, to the Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development in writing within four days. Employers are also required to notify their joint health and safety committee or a health and safety representative and a trade union, if they exist.

- The *Municipal Emergency Act, 2020* was passed and ensures that for the near future, the delivery of goods to Ontario's businesses and consumers isn't impacted by municipal noise by-laws that may unintentionally be impeding such deliveries when they are most urgently needed. The legislation also gives municipalities the ability to fully conduct Council, local board and committee meetings electronically when faced with local and province-wide emergencies, empowering the government's municipal partners to respond quickly when in-person meetings cannot be held.

BLG's Legal Alert on the *Employment Standards Amendment Act (Infectious Disease Emergencies), 2020* can be found [here](#).

On [March 23, 2020, the Ontario government ordered](#) the mandatory closure of all non-essential workplaces effective as of Tuesday March 24, 2020 at 11:59pm. Such closure will be in effect for 14 days with the possibility of an extension of such closure as the situation evolves.

The list of what the Ontario government considers essential businesses (that are permitted to stay open) can be found at this [link](#). We note that one of the categories of essential businesses under the "retail and wholesaling" section are: "Motor vehicle, auto-supply, auto and motor-vehicle-repair, including bicycle repair, aircraft repair, heavy equipment repair, watercraft/marine craft repairs, car and truck dealerships and related facilities".

On March 25, 2020, the Ontario government [announced a new "stop the spread business information line"](#) to provide support to businesses who have questions about Ontario's emergency order to close at-risk workplaces and [provided a fiscal update in which they, among other things, announced additional health care resources and support for people, jobs and employers](#). Those Ontario government's plan includes measures that will make available \$10 billion in support for people and businesses through tax and other deferral to improve their cash flows over the coming months, including cutting taxes by \$355 million for about 57,000 employers through a proposed temporary increase to the Employer Health Tax (EHT) exemption, making available \$6 billion by providing five months of interest and penalty relief for businesses to file and make payments for the majority of provincially administered taxes, over \$1.8 billion by deferring the upcoming June 30 quarterly municipal remittance of education property tax to school boards by 90 days, which will provide municipalities the flexibility to, in turn, provide property tax deferrals to residents and businesses, while ensuring school boards continue to receive their funding, and making available \$1.9 billion by the Ontario's workers compensation board allowing employers to defer payments for up to six months. Further, a number of municipalities have either closed their playgrounds and other park amenities or will be doing so shortly [including the Region of Waterloo and the City of Toronto](#), the latter of which is the capital of in the province of Ontario.

On March 26, 2020, the Ontario government announced [enabling \\$1.9 billion in relief for employers to reduce financial strain brought on by COVID-19](#) and [providing \\$3.3 billion more to increase health care capacity](#).

Between March 28 and March 30, 2020, the Ontario government announced [the protection of supply chains to support the COVID-19 emergency response](#), [the protection of consumers from price gouging](#), [the taking of emergency measures to support long-term care homes during COVID-19](#), [the prohibition of gatherings of more than five people with strict exceptions](#), [the stepping up of measures to limit the spread of COVID-19 on construction sites](#), [the enhancement of public reporting about COVID-19](#), [the protection of seniors during the COVID-19 outbreak](#), [the increase of health and safety measures to better protect frontline nurses from COVID-19](#) and [the extension of the emergency declaration \(and the closure of all outdoor recreational amenities across the province of Ontario\)](#).

On March 31, 2020, the Ontario government announced [extending school and child care closures until May 4, 2020](#), [providing supports to postsecondary students](#), and [requiring people charged with an offence under the Ontario Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act to identify themselves if asked by a provincial offences officer](#).

On April 1, 2020, the Ontario government announced [a new \\$50 million Ontario Together Fund to support the development of essential equipment and supplies](#). On April 2, 2020, the Ontario government announced [supports for the trucking sector to keep goods moving](#), [strengthening victim services](#) and [increasing mental health support](#). Municipal governments are also taking more strict measures, including a new by-law by the City of Toronto (see explanation below of the City) [providing that two people \(who don't live together\) who fail to keep 2 meters of distance between them in a park or public square will be subject to prosecution and will be liable for a fine of up to \\$5,000 upon conviction](#).

On April 3, 2020, the Ontario government released a [new list of essential businesses](#) (permitted to stay open). The list comes into effect at 11:59pm on Saturday April 4, 2020. **We note that the previous relevant category of essential businesses under the “retail and wholesaling” section of “Motor vehicle, auto-supply, auto and motor-vehicle-repair, including bicycle repair, aircraft repair, heavy equipment repair, watercraft/marine craft repairs, car and truck dealerships and related facilities” has been deleted.** There is now a narrower category of “Vehicle and equipment repair and essential maintenance and vehicle and equipment rental services”. The accompanying news release is [here](#).

On April 9, 2020, the Ontario government announced [the start of the planning for economic recovery](#) and [creating a partnership for volunteer hub to help seniors](#).

On April 14, 2020, the Ontario government [extended the Declaration of Emergency for a further 28 days, until May 12, 2020](#). The Ontario legislature also passed the *Coronavirus (COVID-19) Support and Protection Act* to amend the *Education Act*, *Planning Act*, *Development Charges Act*, *Police Services Act* and the *Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities Act*.

On April 15, 2020, the Ontario government announced [ramping up protection for long-term care residents](#). On April 16, 2020, the Ontario government announced the [significant expansion of hospital capacity](#), [enabling auto insurance companies to provide driver rebates during COVID-19](#) and [supporting the agri-food sector supply chain](#). On April 17, 2020, the Ontario government announced the [establishment of key partnership to make home learning more accessible](#).

The following are also noteworthy:

- on April 15, 2020, the Ontario government announced the [ramping up of protection for long-term care residents](#)
- on April 11 – 13, 2020, the Ontario government announced [taking further action to stop the spread of COVID-19](#), [protecting parents during COVID-19](#), [the stepping up of Ontario business to fight COVID-19](#), and [the development of a new health data platform to help defeat COVID-19](#)
- on April 10, 2020, the Ontario government announced [the significant expansion of COVID-19 testing in Ontario](#)
- on April 8, 2020, the Ontario government [announced the extension of constructions hours for essential construction projects](#)
- on April 7, 2020, the Ontario government announced [the launch of an online portal to match available health care workers with employers](#) and [measures to help Indigenous communities to stop the spread of COVID-19](#)
- from April 4, 2020 through April 6, 2020, the Ontario government announced a [new portal connecting employers with workers](#), [protecting vulnerable Ontarians](#), [supporting families](#), [providing relief for remote northern property taxpayers](#), and [additional measures to protect first responders](#)
- on April 3, 2020, the Ontario government announced [increasing public health units' capacity to stop COVID-19](#), [providing transparency by releasing COVID-19 modelling](#), and [protecting seniors in retirement homes](#)
- on March 30, 2020, Ontario's [Chief Medical Officer of Health made a statement](#) indicating, among other things, that he strongly recommends everyone to stay home except for essential reasons, limit the number of those essential trips, and (strongly recommends that) individuals over 70 years of age self isolate
- on March 24, 2020, the Ontario government announced [electricity relief for families, small business and farms during COVID-19](#), [enhanced measures to protect the safety of residents in long-term care homes](#) and [two deaths in Ontario long-term care homes related to COVID-19](#)
- on March 23, 2020, [Ontario government announced](#) new funding to support municipalities, food banks, homeless shelters and individuals. A number of municipalities have declared states of emergency, including the [declaration of the City of Toronto, a municipality within the province of Ontario, of an emergency on March 23, 2020](#). The Ontario government has also put together an initiative named ["Ontario Together"](#), which is effectively a solicitation for (private sector) suppliers and solutions to assist with the efforts against the COVID-19 pandemic
- on March 20, 2020, the Ontario government announced a number of initiatives, including the [first phase of the Learn from Home Portal](#), [protecting Ontario drivers](#), [stepping up measures in the correctional system](#) and [enhanced health care coverage critical to support efforts to contain COVID-19](#)
- in the City of Toronto, the City's Medical Officer of Health [in the afternoon on March 19, 2020](#) encouraged non-essential businesses to close. The City's Medical Officer of Health did not define what constitutes a "non-essential business" or an "essential business" but indicated that non-essential businesses include "hair and nail salons and clothing stores". [News outlets](#) are reporting that the City's Medical Health Officer is urging all non-essential businesses to voluntarily shut

down immediately. Various municipalities are taking certain steps to assist residents, including providing a [grace period for city fees in some cities](#)

- in a [12:30pm March 18, 2020 press release](#), the Ontario government announced new restrictions on licensed retirement homes. In a [6:50pm March 18, 2020 press release](#), the Ontario government announced the closure of all provincial parks to the public from March 19, 2020 to April 30, 2020
- in a morning press conference and [9:30am March 17, 2020 press release](#), the Ontario government enacted a declaration of emergency to protect the public. As a result of this declaration and its associated orders, the following establishments are legally required to close immediately: all facilities providing indoor recreational programs; all public libraries; all private schools as defined in the Education Act; all licensed child care centres; all bars and restaurants, except to the extent that such facilities provide takeout food and delivery; all theatres including those offering live performances of music, dance, and other art forms, as well as cinemas that show movies; and concert venues. Also, all organized public events of over 50 people are also prohibited, including parades and events and communal services within places of worship. These orders were approved by the Lieutenant Governor in Council and will remain in place until March 31, 2020, at which point they will be reassessed and considered for extension, unless this order is terminated earlier
- in a [2:43pm March 17, 2020 press release](#), the Chief Medical Officer of Health for Ontario issued a statement reporting the first death in Ontario that is potentially related to COVID-19, a 77-year old man who passed away on March 11, 2020 who was in close contact of a positive case and COVID-19 was recently identified after death. The CMO also indicated that “it is now more important than ever that we all take steps to reduce opportunities for transmission. By working together, we can make a difference (sic) in this outbreak and protect those among us who are most vulnerable to COVID-19”
- in a [11:15am ET March 16, 2020 press release](#), the Ontario government announced, among other things, that the Ontario government intends to introduce legislation that, if passed, would “immediately provide job-protected leave to employees in isolation or quarantine due to COVID-19, or those who need to be away from work to care for children because of school or day care closures”. The press release also indicates that the proposed legislation would, if passed, provide job protection for employees unable to work for the following reasons:
  - The employee is under medical investigation, supervision or treatment for COVID-19.
  - The employee is acting in accordance with an order under the *Health Protection and Promotion Act* (Ontario).
  - The employee is in isolation or quarantine.
  - The employee is acting in accordance with public health information or direction.
  - The employer directs the employee not to work.
  - The employee needs to provide care to a person for a reason related to COVID-19 such as a school or day-care closure.

The press release further indicates that the proposed legislation would make it clear that an employee will not be required to provide a medical note if they take the leave, the measures would be retroactive to January 25, 2020, many workers will be eligible for Employment Insurance sickness benefits, and the Ontario government is reviewing current access and eligibility to emergency assistance which is available through the Ontario Works (OW) program to support individuals who are impacted by the coronavirus and who are not able to meet their basic living expenses. There was no reference to paid leave



- it is being [reported by news outlets](#) in the afternoon (ET) of March 16, 2020 that Ontario health officials have stated that they “cannot rule out community transmission” and have added additional recommendations: no gatherings over 50; no recreation programs; closure of all private schools, daycares, bars and restaurants, except those that can do takeout and delivery. It is also being reported that those who might have been exposed to another person with COVID-19 are asked to self-monitor for symptoms for 14 days and those who do not show symptoms of COVID-19 and did not travel should ensure they are practising social distancing. When asked whether there would be a recommendation that all non-essential businesses close, Ontario’s Chief Medical Officer stated that he continues to have talks with government officials, but no decision had been made
- in a [3:28pm ET March 16, 2020 press release](#), the Ontario Government issued a statement in response to the impact of COVID-19 on Ontario’s finances and economy
- it was [reported by news outlets](#) in the afternoon (ET) of March 15, 2020 that the Ontario Government announced that the Ontario Premier had directed government to draft legislation responding to the COVID-19 outbreak that will include measures to ensure employers provide “protected leave” and remove employers’ ability to require sick notes for people in self-isolation or quarantine. The Ontario legislature is currently not sitting and may not resume until March 23, 2020. It is reported that the new measures will apply both to employees who are in self-isolation or quarantine, or those that are providing care to others. It is not clear if the legislation will include any provisions for paid leave
- In a [11:00am ET March 15, 2020 press release](#), the Ontario Government announced the cancellation of all Ontario Parks planned events, including public Ontario Parks buildings. Outdoor recreational opportunities including camping and day use will still be available at operating parks
- in a [12:13pm ET March 14, 2020 press release](#), the Ontario Government issued a statement related to grocery buying habits and COVID-19 in Ontario, stating among other things that “Ontarians can be confident that our food supply is robust ... we have plenty of food that will continue to reach grocery stores on a regular basis...please practice normal grocery buying habits ...”
- in a [6:15pm ET March 13, 2020 press release](#), the Ontario Government referred to the Ontario Chief Medical Officer of Health’s recommendation for the immediate suspension of all gatherings over 250 people because of the COVID-19 pandemic
- In a [3:55pm ET March 12, 2020 press release](#), the Minister of Education issued a Ministerial Order to close all publically funded schools in Ontario for two weeks following March break, in response to the emergence in Ontario of COVID-19, and accordingly, such schools will remain closed from March 14, 2020 through to April 5, 2020
- In a [policy published on March 13, 2020](#), the Ontario Human Rights Commission (OHRC) made a policy statement on the COVID-19 pandemic. Among other things, it states that the “OHRC’s policy position is that negative treatment of employees who have, or are perceived to have, COVID-19, for reasons unrelated to public health and safety, is discriminatory and prohibited under the [Human Rights] Code”
- Certain [measures are being taken by the Ontario courts](#) in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic, including cancellation of jury panels for civil and criminal trials

## Quebec

On March 13, 2020, the Government of Québec adopted an Order in Council that declares a health emergency throughout Québec's territory. This exceptional measure empowers the government to implement an array of measures to protect the health of the population.

Current applicable directives are as follows:

- voluntary self-isolation for 14 days for anyone who returns from abroad on or after March 12, 2020;
- mandatory self-isolation for 14 days for all public service employees and health care, education and daycare workers, both private and public, who return from abroad on or after March 12, 2020;
- the prohibition of indoor gatherings of more than 250 people;
- the public is urged to avoid unnecessary indoor gatherings;
- elderly people 70 years of age and over are urged to stay at home, except in the case of necessity or in exceptional circumstances, such as a medical appointment;
- the closing of all childcare services (childcare centres, subsidized and non-subsidized childcare services, home childcare services and unregulated childcare services) and the education network (elementary and secondary schools, training centres, private schools, CEGEPs, colleges and universities) from Monday, March 16 to Friday, March 27.
- regular visits are prohibited in hospitals, residential and long-term care centres, intermediate resources, family-type resources and private seniors' homes throughout Québec's territory;
- health services related to COVID-19 provided by correspondence or by means of telecommunications will now be covered by the Régie de l'assurance maladie du Québec;
- municipal by-elections on March 15, 2020 and the 20 others planned by late April are postponed
- tribunals will only hear urgent matters and are closed for any other case.

On March 15, 2020, the Quebec government has ordered the closure, until March 30, 2020, of the following businesses and public places:

Libraries, museums, theaters; concert halls; swimming pools, spas, saunas and water parks; recreational places (ski resorts, amusement parks, trampoline centers, etc.); cinemas and arcades, training centers, dance halls, spinning, zumba and yoga; arenas, indoor soccer centers; zoos; aquariums; bars and nightclubs; buffet restaurants; sugar shacks; and all other installations with a similar vocation.

The Quebec government is asking restaurant owners to limit customers to 50% of room capacity, or a table out of two. Buffet-style restaurants and sugar shacks will have to close temporarily. Take out orders, deliveries and car services are still permitted.

### *March 16*

Government recommends to avoid ALL unnecessary gatherings regardless of the number of participants.

Workplaces: individuals should keep one to two meters away from their colleagues and work remotely when possible.

Collective transportation will remain open.

Measure announced today:

- Launch of the PATT: Programme d'aide temporaire aux travailleurs touchés par le coronavirus (Temporary Assistance Program for Coronavirus-Affected Workers)
- The program is aimed at people who need to isolate themselves
- The isolation of people subject to the instructions of public authorities is a civic duty for both employers and employees.
- The Act respecting Occupational Health and Safety requires that employers ensure that they maintain a safe working environment, but the current situation requires enhanced measures. The Premier Minister calls for the cooperation of employers
- For those who do not qualify for assistance programs, such as those offered by the federal government or Employment Insurance (e.g., self-employed workers), the government is implementing the PATT
- Criteria to be eligible for the PATT :
  - Not be eligible for any other program; and
  - Having to be isolated for a period of 14 days; or
  - Having been infected with the virus or have symptoms; or
  - Having been in contact with infected people
- The assistance provided is a tax-free payment of \$573 per week for two weeks, up to a maximum of four weeks, similar to the federal Employment Insurance program.
- The objective of this measure is to ensure that all Quebecers can isolate themselves without hesitation for fear of a loss of income.
- It is parallel to the programs offered by the federal government, but it is not intended to allow for double compensation.
- The program will be offered until the situation is resolved, the government will adapt to the new situation.
- The government relies on the good faith of Quebecers. There will be no medical certificate required, doctors must concentrate their forces elsewhere.
- To access the program, there is a form to fill out on quebec.ca that still requires specific information and people must answer it to receive the compensation.
- If 10% of workers benefit from this assistance, assuming the program is in operation until December, the cost of the program would be \$150 million.
- This government assistance must be distinguished from the government assistance that will be given to people who will lose their jobs or suffer a reduction in their working hours.
- This program does not preclude other forms of assistance such as assistance to families.
- It is an obligation for employers to allow their employees to isolate themselves when they claim to have to do so.
- Employers are analyzing telework alternatives, there will be economic measures to avoid layoffs and reductions in hours due to the pandemic.
- The SAQ and SQDC are always open; on the one hand for employment issues, but also to ensure that Quebecers can obtain supplies.

*March 17*

As of March 17, 2020, Québec Parliament is closed up to April 21, 2020.

Employers are asked to stop requiring medical notes supporting isolation (either because employees show symptoms or are in close contact with someone who is symptomatic, or come back from abroad or are in close contact with someone who's coming back). These employees should self-isolate and may ask to benefit from the PATT.

Premier Legault has reminded that unnecessary gatherings should not be held, regardless of the number of the participants. In addition, places of worship should suspend religious gatherings of all faith unless they are essential. If a gathering takes place, social distancing must be observed.

Flexibility measures for individual and businesses during income tax filing season have been announced today.

- The deadline for producing and filing income tax return is postponed to June 1, 2020.
- For individuals and individuals in business, the deadline for applying balances due related to income tax returns for the 2019 taxation year is postponed to July 31, 2020.
- For those who must pay tax instalments, the payment of the June 15, 2020 tax instalment is suspended until July 31, 2020.

*March 18*

No updates.

*March 19*

As of March 19, 2020, the government has asked that any unnecessary travel to another area of the province be avoided.

The government has announced new plans for businesses regarding current loans and future loans to facilitate access to cash flow.

Several grocery stores and the SAQ have reduced their opening hours and control the number of clients present at the same time.

*March 20*

No updates.

*March 23*

As of March 23, 2020, the Quebec government has ordered the closure of all **non-essential businesses and services. They must close as of midnight tomorrow, March 24th, 2020 at midnight, until April 13, 2020.** E-commerce and teleworking are still permitted.

Shopping malls, hairdressers and beauty salons has already been closed during the weekend. Now all non-essential commerce have to close.

The province of Quebec is on pause to limit the spread of the virus. All seniors residing in senior's residences are forbidden to leave the residence without supervision.

Schools (aside from Cegep and universities) are closed until May 1st, 2020.

### *March 24*

The Quebec government clarified what would be considered as a priority service. As of midnight March 24, all activity carried on in work environments be suspended, except in work environments providing priority services; as regards the minimum activity needed to ensure the future resumption of the activities of enterprises providing non-priority services, excluding commercial enterprises.

The suspension does not prevent teleworking in a private residence or its equivalent, and e-commerce or any other form of remote trading.

The priority services include priority health services and social services, public security services, government services and other priority activities, maintenance and operation of strategic infrastructures, priority manufacturing activities, priority commercial enterprises, such as grocery stores and pharmacies, media and telecommunications services, banking, financial and other services, construction sector services, building maintenance and upkeep services, and priority services in the field of transportation and logistics.

The full list is available [here](#).

### *March 25*

No updates.

### *March 26*

No updates.

### *March 27*

No updates.

### *March 30*

As of Saturday, March 28, 7 regions of Quebec have points of control operated by police officers to control unnecessary travels in and out. This includes Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine, Bas-St-Laurent, Abitibi-Témiscamingue, Nunavik, Baie James and northern Quebec and Côte-nord.

Police officers are also controlling travelers driving back from the US border to inform them that they must self-isolate for 14 days.

Côte-des-Neiges, Ville-à-Maria, Verdun and Côte-Saint-Luc are the Montreal areas most affected by the virus. Estrie also has a significant outbreak. Accordingly, Quebecers are asked not to move to or from these areas.

Additional assistance will be provided to senior residences and long-term care facilities in the form of subsidies to buy personal protection equipment and pay the overtime required by the situation. Security agents will be deployed to control who enters and exits residences, in view of denying access to symptomatic individuals.

Montreal has declared the state of sanitary emergency, allowing more police officers to be deployed, which will allow for more interventions to end gatherings.

As of March 30, 2020, Premier Legault has announced that all essential stores still open will be closed on Sunday except drugstores, convenience stores, gas stations and take out counters at restaurants, for the whole month of April, 2020.

#### *March 31*

No updates.

#### *April 1*

As of April 1st, 2020, the Laurentides, Lanaudière, Outaouais and Mauricie and Centre-du-Québec areas are secluded to protect their residents. Only essential workers may enter.

#### *April 2*

The Premier encouraged police forces to enforce public health directives, and issue fines up to \$6,000.

#### *April 3*

Families may now take home relatives in government-run CHSLDs or private seniors residences, but family members must be healthy.

Quebec also announced the Emergency Assistance Program for Small and Medium-Sized Businesses, for businesses that are experiencing financial difficulties as a result of the crisis and who require working capital of less than \$50,000. This is in addition to the Temporary Concerted Action Program for Businesses (PACTE) announced on March 19, which is aimed at businesses in need of cash in excess of \$50,000 for their working capital.

Quebec also announced an extension of its Local Investment Funds (FLI) for two years, until December 31, 2022. Businesses may be offered an additional three-months for the repayment of their loan (principal and interest).

Earnings of low-income workers in essential businesses and services will be offered a \$100-a-week bonus, retroactive to March 15, for a period of 16 weeks. Eligible workers must be employed by an essential business or service as recognized by the Quebec government and earn less than \$28,600 a year.

#### *April 6*

As of April 4, there are two new confined areas: Charlevoix and Outaouais.

Non-essential businesses who were set to reopen as of April 13, 2020 will not reopen before May 4, 2020. The Quebec government has launched a new program allowing low income workers who do not earn \$2,000 per month to apply for indemnities over a 16-week period, retroactively to March 15. The program will open on May 19.

Quebec also announced that the government will fund employee training, and cover as much as 100% of employee salaries while those workers improve their skills. Independent businesses are eligible for up to \$100,000 in subsidies.

*April 7*

Montreal has announced that all of its festivals, sporting events and other public gatherings through July 2 are cancelled.

*April 8*

The City of Montreal is renewing its state of emergency for five more days.

*April 9*

No updates.

*April 10 – 13*

Quebec announced that all residences in Quebec will be inspected. A ministerial order was also made to allow the provincial government to redeploy staff from school boards and CEGEPs to the healthcare sector.

Quebec also announced that construction and renovation work on housing units with completion dates by July 31 will be allowed to resume next Monday. Building inspections and land surveying for residential construction will be permitted, and the necessary supply chains will also be permitted. The workers will be required to maintain two metres of distance between each other.

Mines will be allowed to reopen starting Wednesday, but with restrictions, such as reducing the amount of people on flights into and out of mining areas, shuttle buses directly to mines, and personal protective equipment.

Auto mechanic, landscaping, gardening and residential pool centres will also be permitted to reopen on Wednesday.

The deadline to remove studded tires has been extended from May 1 to June 5.

*April 14*

No updates.

*April 15*

Montreal announced that it will advance loans of up to \$50,000 to as many as 1,000 businesses in the next two weeks, while it waits for \$40 million promised by the Quebec government. Businesses will not be required to pay back the principal on those loans for the first six months, and the city will cover interest on those loans for that first six-month period.

*April 16 – April 17*

Quebec announced a new program to recruit about 8,500 out-of-work Quebecers and students, and train them to in local agriculture. The plan will offer field workers training and a \$100 weekly bonus to those who work at least 25 hours a week.