

## **Ontario Takes Further Action to Stop the Spread of COVID-19**

*Province Extends Emergency Orders until April 23*

April 11, 2020 8:00 A.M.

TORONTO — To help stop the spread of COVID-19 and protect the health and safety of people across the province, the Ontario government has extended all emergency orders that have been put in place to-date under s.7.0.2 (4) of the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act* until April 23, 2020, including the closure of outdoor amenities in parks and recreational areas, non-essential workplaces, public places and bars and restaurants, along with restrictions on social gatherings and the prohibition of price gouging.

In addition, new measures have been introduced to address surge capacity in retirement homes, restrict recreational camping on Crown land, and allow the repurposing of existing buildings and temporary structures. All of these actions are based on the advice of Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health.

"I understand the actions we are taking are affecting the lives and livelihoods of people across the province, but these are extraordinary times and we need to do whatever we can to keep individuals and families safe and stop the spread of this terrible virus," said Premier Ford. "We all must continue to do our part by staying home and practicing physical distancing. With the proper precautions and additional measures we're taking today, I am confident we will get through this together and stronger."

Ontario introduced the following new steps to help stop the spread of COVID-19. The government is:

- Making it easier to repurpose existing buildings and put up temporary structures, like tents, so communities can meet their local needs quickly. This will reduce pressure on health care facilities, where needed, and help shelters provide more space for sleeping to maintain the physical distancing requirements to reduce the spread of the virus.
- Temporarily enabling hospitals to increase their capacity by using the beds and services of retirement homes without certain labour relations implications during the declared provincial emergency.
- Prohibiting recreational camping on Crown land as of April 9, 2020. Under the emergency order, no individual can camp on Crown land, including the placement of tents or other camping structures, while the order is in effect. The government will continue to monitor the situation and re-evaluate if further actions are required.
- Supporting construction workers and businesses with emergency action to help improve cash flow in the construction industry during the COVID-19 outbreak. This will lift the

suspension of limitation periods and procedural time periods under the *Construction Act* and allow the release of holdback payments to contractors and subcontractors.

The following emergency orders have been extended until April 23, 2020:

- [Closure of public places and establishments with exemption for emergency child care for health care and frontline essential service workers](#)
- [Prohibiting events and gatherings of more than five people](#)
- [Work deployment for health service providers](#)
- [Drinking water and sewage](#)
- [Electronic service of documents](#)
- [Work deployment for long-term care homes](#)
- [Electricity pricing](#)
- [Closure of non-essential workplaces](#)
- [Traffic management](#)
- [Streamlining requirements for long-term care homes](#)
- [Prohibiting unfair pricing for necessary goods](#)
- [Enforcement of orders](#)
- [Work deployment for boards of health](#)
- [Work deployment measures in retirement homes](#)
- [Access to COVID-19 status information by specified persons](#)
- [Service agencies providing services and supports to adults with developmental disabilities](#)
- [Pick up and delivery of cannabis](#)
- [Signatures in wills and powers of attorney](#)
- [Use of force and firearms in policing services](#)
- [Closure of outdoor recreational amenities](#)

## QUICK FACTS

- Temporary facilities must be designed and reviewed by qualified professionals (such as licensed architects and professional engineers) and municipal Building Officials must inspect the facilities to ensure they are safe.
- The Construction Act is intended to regulate how payments are made, to help ensure that workers who have provided services or materials during a construction project are paid for their work.

## LEARN MORE

- Visit Ontario's [website](#) to learn more about how the province continues to protect Ontarians from COVID-19.
- [Emergency information and orders](#)
- For public inquiries, call ServiceOntario, INFOLine at 1-866-532-3161 (toll-free in Ontario only).

