

City of Toronto & Peel Region Moved to Lockdown Stage

Despite the public health measures currently in place, escalating trends in key indicators have raised growing concerns from public health authorities, and prompted tighter restrictions to be put in place in certain regions. The climbing case counts have led to the Government of Ontario to move Toronto and Peel Region into the grey “Lockdown” stage of the [COVID-19 Response Framework](#) as of Monday, November 23, 2020 a 12:01 am. The lockdown measures are expected to last a minimum of 28 days and impose strict social and business restrictions, reverting to a modified Stage 1 of the framework, intended to curb the spread of COVID-19.

Key measures for in the Lockdown stage include:

- No indoor organized public events or social gatherings, with individuals outside of the same household.
- Outdoor organized public events and social gatherings are limited to 10 people, and only where physical distancing can be maintained.
- Virtual and drive-in gatherings, events, training/courses, and ceremonies are permitted.
- Trips outside of the home should only be for essential reasons (work, school, groceries/pharmacy, health care, assisting vulnerable individuals or exercise/physical activity).
- Work remotely, where possible.



The Lockdown imposes significant restrictions and the closure of some businesses. A complete list of public health measures and restrictions applicable under Lockdown (grey) can be found [here](#). For additional information, the Government has also provided a Stop the Spread Business Information Line at 1-888-444-3659.

Based on current government regulations, **construction and ready-mixed concrete remain essential services** and are permitted to operate as long as they are in compliance with the advice, recommendations and instructions of public health officials. The mobility of workers across the five levels of public health measures does not appear to be restricted at this time, as work is considered an essential reason to travel outside of you home region. Measures such as daily worker screenings, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) including face coverings, capacity limits, regular cleaning and disinfecting of facilities, as well as implementing and maintaining a [COVID-19 workplace safety plan](#) are mandatory for businesses that remain operational.

At minimum, every business safety plan should address the following:

1. How will the business stay current on the law, including health and safety requirements, and communicate policies and protocols to workers and guests?
2. How will the business screen for COVID-19?
3. How will the business reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission in the workplace? (including physical and administrative controls)
4. What action should an employee take if they feel unwell or think they may have been exposed to a case of COVID-19? What actions will the business take?
5. How will the business ensure the plan is working? How often will the plan be reviewed to manage new risks and changes? Who is responsible for evaluating how things are working and for updating the plan?

Although the Lockdown announcement was made on Friday, November 20, 2020 and government officials and public health authorities continued to stress the importance of staying home over the weekend, Ontario reported record high COVID-19 numbers today. Our industry must ensure that we continue to prioritize the health and safety of our workers and that we continue to operate responsibly, in accordance with government regulations and guidelines. Concrete

Ontario encourages our members to review their safety protocols and have their staff work remotely, where possible. Help us continue to do our part to curb the spread of COVID-19.

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