

Ontario Tightens Restriction Under Province Wide Stay at Home Order

Ontario has reported record high daily COVID-19 case counts, as the rapid transmission of the variants continue to overwhelm the province's health care system. The most recent announcement from Premier Doug Ford amended some of the new measures announced on Friday, removing the additional policing powers and reopening playgrounds but the enhanced shutdown and stay-at-home orders remain and have been extended to May 20th, 2021. The Premier explained that the stricter measures are necessary due to the lack of vaccine supply.

The **adjusted restrictions** came into effect on **Saturday, April 17th, 2021 at 12:01 am**, banning outdoor gatherings with members outside of your household, restricting non-essential construction, closing outdoor amenities like golf courses, further decreasing essential retail where in-store shopping is still permitted to 25% capacity and continuing to require everyone to remain at home except for essential purposes, such as going to the grocery store or pharmacy, accessing health care services (including getting vaccinated), for outdoor exercise, or for work that cannot be done remotely.



The more stringent shutdown measures consider the following construction essential, allowing these projects to continue:

- 43.** Construction activities or projects and related services, including land surveying and demolition services, that,
- (a) are associated with the health care sector or long-term care, including new facilities, expansions, renovations and conversion of spaces that could be repurposed for health care space;
 - (b) ensure safe and reliable operations of, or provide new capacity in,
 - (i) municipal infrastructure, or
 - (ii) provincial infrastructure, including but not limited to, the transit, transportation, resource, energy and justice sectors;
 - (c) support the operations of, or provide new capacity in, electricity generation, transmission, distribution and storage, natural gas distribution, transmission and storage or in the supply of resources;
 - (d) support the operations of, or provide new capacity in, schools, colleges, universities or child care centres within the meaning of the *Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014*;
 - (e) are required for,
 - (i) the maintenance and operations of petrochemical plants and refineries,
 - (ii) significant industrial petrochemical projects where preliminary work commenced before April 7, 2021, or
 - (iii) industrial construction and modifications to existing industrial structures limited solely to work necessary for the production, maintenance or enhancement of personal protective equipment, medical devices such as ventilators and other identified products directly related to combatting the COVID-19 pandemic;
 - (f) would provide additional capacity in the production, processing, manufacturing or distribution of food, beverages or agricultural products;
 - (g) were commenced before April 17, 2021 and that would,
 - (i) provide additional capacity for businesses that provide logistical support, distribution services, warehousing, storage or shipping and delivery services,
 - (ii) provide additional capacity in the operation and delivery of Information Technology (IT) services or telecommunications services, or
 - (iii) provide additional capacity to, or enhance the efficiency or operations of, businesses that extract, manufacture, process and distribute goods, products, equipment and materials.
 - (h) support the operations of broadband internet and cellular technologies and services;

- (i) are residential construction activities or projects and related services;
- (j) prepare a site for an institutional, commercial, industrial or residential development, including any necessary excavation, grading, roads or utilities infrastructure;
- (k) are necessary to temporarily close construction sites that have paused, or that are not active, to ensure ongoing public safety;
- (l) are funded in whole or in part by,
 - (i) the Crown in right of Canada or in right of Ontario,
 - (ii) an agency of the Crown in right of Canada or in right of Ontario, or
 - (iii) a municipality;
- (m) are,
 - (i) intended to provide shelter or supports for vulnerable persons or affordable housing; and
 - (ii) being funded in whole or in part by, or are being undertaken by,
 - (A) the Crown in right of Canada or in right of Ontario,
 - (B) an agency of the Crown in right of Canada or in right of Ontario,
 - (C) a municipality,
 - (D) a service manager as defined the *Housing Services Act, 2011*, or
 - (E) a registered charity within the meaning of the *Income Tax Act (Canada)*, or
 - (F) a not-for-profit corporation.

The Association reminds all members that ready mixed concrete remains an essential product, and all members can operate fully. Since some forms of construction are no longer considered essential, it remains the **General Contractor's responsibility** to determine if their project meets the essential construction criteria listed above.

If you have any further questions regarding the new measures or Concrete Ontario's recommendations, please feel free to reach out to us and we will do our best to provide additional information. The Association welcomes any comments or concerns as we continue to address industry issues and work together to support the health and safety of our industry through the COVID-19 pandemic.

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