

## State of Emergency and Stay at Home Order

To all members,

The Provincial Government just announced a State of Emergency, effective immediately for a duration of 28 days. Beginning Thursday, January 14, 2021 at 12:01 a.m., the government is issuing a stay-at-home order requiring everyone to remain at home with exceptions for essential purposes, such as going to the grocery store or pharmacy, accessing health care services, for exercise or for essential work. You can read the full news release [here](#).

The order includes the following new restrictions:

- All businesses must ensure that any employee who can work from home, does work from home.
- Outdoor gatherings are further restricted to a limit of five people.
- Individuals are required to wear a mask or face covering in the indoor areas of businesses or organizations that are open.
- Wearing a mask or face covering is now recommended outdoors when you can't physically distance more than two metres.
- **Restaurants** are permitted to continue with curbside and delivery takeout options
- **Essential Retailers** (supermarkets, convenience stores, other stores that primarily sell food and pharmacies) can remain open for in-person retail, subject to:
  - Members of the public being able to maintain two metres physical distance from every other person in the business or facility and complying with face covering rules AND
  - The number of persons occupying any room that is open to the public does not exceed 50% capacity of the particular room. Curbside pick-up and delivery is permitted
- **Non-Essential Retailers** are permitted to continue with curbside pick-up or delivery (in-person retail shopping not permitted) with the following stipulations:
  - An item may only be provided for curbside pickup if the patron ordered the item before arriving at the business premises.
  - Sales must be exclusively made so patrons are not required to enter the indoor area of the business, including curbside pick-up or delivery.
  - All non-essential retail stores, including hardware stores, alcohol retailers, and those offering curbside pickup or delivery, must **open no earlier than 7 a.m. and close no later than 8 p.m.**

## **New Enforcement Measures**

Under the declaration of a provincial emergency, the province will provide authority to all enforcement and provincial offences officers, including the Ontario Provincial Police, local police forces, bylaw officers, and provincial workplace inspectors to **issue tickets to individuals who do not comply with the stay-at-home-order, or those not wearing a mask or face covering indoors as well as retail operators and companies who do not enforce.** Those who decide not to abide by orders will be subject to set fines and/or prosecution under both the *Reopening Ontario (A Flexible Response to COVID-19) Act*, (ROA) and EMCPA.

## **Workplace Safety**

The Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development is taking additional steps to protect workers with the launch of the "Stay Safe All Day" campaign, focusing workplace inspections in areas of high transmission, including break rooms, and providing new educational materials to employers to promote safe behaviour before, during and after work.

Evidence gathered from COVID-19 related workplace inspections to date shows the vast majority of employers and workers are following COVID-19 safety requirements when working. However, when in a break room, a vehicle or not on the clock, there is a tendency to forget about the importance of wearing masks, maintaining physical distance and hand hygiene.

Please see the **attached document** for complete details regarding the State of Emergency and Province-Wide Shut Down.

If you have questions about what can remain open or impacts to your business, call the Stop the Spread Business Information Line at 1-888-444-3659.

You can also reach out to us at the BIA for help or information at any time. We will continue to pass along new information as it becomes available.

Thank you,