

GENERAL QUESTIONS (not asked)

Contact Tracing, how are we doing in our region overall?

Very well - we are following up on cases within 24 hours and identifying and isolating cases within 24 hours. Furthermore, test results are coming back within 24 hours.

When an active case is removed from the dashboard / deemed resolved, is it because the person has now tested negative, or because they passed the 14 day period?

It means they have passed beyond the 10 days (for some cases with underlying health conditions, this may be extended to 20 days) and are no longer contagious. Negative test results are not required.

Is there any work in our area for antigen testing?

LTCH throughout the province are in the process of rolling out antigen testing for staff surveillance screening within their facilities.

Is there an opportunity to be more flexible with access to LTC and RH, to three Essential Caregivers to ensure capacity to service clients.

We continue to follow provincial guidelines around visiting restrictions of LTC and RH. Under the current lock-down order, a maximum of 2 caregivers may be designated per resident at this time. Essential caregivers continue to be permitted to enter these facilities to ensure continuity of care of residents, but in order to protect our most vulnerable resident population, it remains that they follow the current testing and screening guidelines that are in place.

Entertainment

Under the new restrictions, can churches include singers or musicians as part of their livestreamed services with a limit of 10 participants including technicians? Under the new restrictions, can a cultural organization rent the same church space to record music or spoken word presentation for future distribution through social media?

This seems to fall under the section regarding the rental of spaces, and the answer is no as it does not meet one of the permitted uses.

Can rental spaces be used for In Person Training for Health Care workers and -- paramedics

Under the same section, you can rent space for the purpose of social services, mental health & addictions – the answer identified paramedics/health care as falling under “social services” so rental to someone offering training would be allowed. Correct

If film and television productions are able to resume filming under the current lockdown measures in order to create digital content for distribution through the media. Can theatre companies and organizations like the Empire Theatre do the same to create digital content for distribution or livestreaming under the current regulations?

If the performance is filmed for the purpose of distribution and all filming and set protocol are in compliance, would there be an issue with the Empire using their stage as a set?

Not permitted as this section of the regulation was revoked.

Belleville Theatre Guild has been performing dramatic Zoom readings of new local plays to an online audience. Does that imply compliance with the regulations for future productions? They then publish

the recordings on their website. If so can we meet in the pinnacle theatre - BTG home theatre, to produce a play?

See above.

Can you double check section 68 of amending reg 82/20 as it affects theatres. The information I downloaded from the province's website filed January 14, 2021 said that Section 68 was revoked. Could you get back to us after the seminar to verify if this is true?

I believe you did confirm this had been revoked – what does that mean for the above questions?

Yes revoked.

Who exactly can enforce infractions aside from OPP and Bylaw?

I believe you indicated that anyone who has the authority to investigate or inspect has the authority to enforce.

Any Provincial Offences Officers which includes OPP, Bylaw Officers, Public Health Inspectors, Ministry of Labour Inspectors, etc.

Reopening Protocol

What is the exact date we will be able to open this time? There was a grey area with the first lockdown which some said January 23rd. and some documents said 24th. Is it now February 11th. if nothing changes? When, exactly, is our current lockdown set to end? I have heard so many different dates and it's really hard to plan for my business.

The current order is in place until February 11th. This can be extended BUT this is what is posted on the Ontario.ca website... and now I'm really confused 😞

- The orders currently in force under the Reopening Ontario (A Flexible Response to COVID-19) Act, 2020 (ROA) remain in effect until January 20, 2021. Under the ROA, orders can be extended for up to 30 days at a time, and the government must continue to report on all order extensions to the Select Committee on Emergency Management Oversight.
- **The above notice is a government housekeeping issue. The current lockdown is in place until February 11th. We have not yet been updated as to any applicable accompanying legislative changes.**

Update: As of February 10th, HPEPH Unit region is going to be able to re-open in the Green category of Phase 3

Once re-opened (whenever that may be), will SIGNAGE be sufficient to screen customers entering the premises verses SPEAKING to each customer every time?

I believe you indicated signage would be sufficient. Yes.

I see according to the health unit that curbside is only available if people have phoned their order ahead. Can they call us from the sidewalk? What is the reasoning behind this? Thank you very much!

The rationale of pre-ordering is to prevent the possibility of people gathering while they wait for orders given at the door (called from the sidewalk) to be filled. Correct

I cannot seem to find clear information on regulations for providing transportation for clients? IE sanitizing / masks for both riders / space between driver and client?

I know you had some conversation around patient transfer but not sure that answer applies here? And we didn't ask this specific question.....

Car-pooling should not be occurring but if shared vehicle use is needed occupants should all be wearing masks and windows cracked open. Occupants should sit as far apart as possible.

Due to the stay at home order and restrictions on type of "construction" allowed at this time, are "renovations" under the same restrictions?

I can post this link <https://www.ontario.ca/page/enhancing-public-health-and-workplace-safety-measures-provincewide-shutdown#construction>

Permitted if renovations to residential properties started before January 12, 2021.

Specifically, can business owners work with or without an employee in my space to renovate while we remain closed?

I suppose the real question here is whether they are hiring contractors to come in and do the work or they are doing it themselves. And if the scope of the renovation requires a permit (that wasn't obtained prior to January 12 – then the answer is no). If they are taking advantage of the time to reorganize, this should be within the scope of work that can be done... example, a store revamps their warehousing and display areas during a time when they are closed to the public. Yes

If a retail store decides to open and a customer goes into the store is the customer fined?

You indicated that both could be fined under the "illegal gathering" clause. The individual fine starts at \$750 up to \$100,000 and the business owner would be considered the host where fines start at \$10,000 to \$100,000. If the business is a corporation, the director could face the fine up to \$500,000 and the corporation could be fined up to \$10,000,000. Yes

Childcare for essential workers is a concern should the schools not go back on the 25th. There is confusion and concern as to who can look after children without charges to the parents, grandparents etc. Can you clarify the position with licensed vs Unlicensed childcare vs who is eligible for the free childcare for school age children and if grandparents are willing to look after grandchildren is this an issue?

There was some discussion around the charges related to a grandmother (and that there was more to the story) but I'm not sure if this actually was answered – or if the answer was that schools are expected to go back on the 25th and all medical personnel are advocating for this on behalf of children's mental health.

Vaccines Please refer to our website for up to date information on vaccination. If you still have questions complete on line form.

At this point is it mandatory to receive vaccinations for any health care workers?

Because people are being identified by the health unit to receive the vaccination, this question sounds like they are wondering if they can “self-identify” – should I just post the link to your page for this answer? <https://hpepublichealth.ca/covid-19-vaccines/>

Vaccinations for Private Care Companies, that do home care and in home LTC/RH, how can we approach Health Unit to obtain vaccinations for our staff members?

To this point above, is there any way an organization can appeal to be added to the list or given some priority?

Can employers require employees to have a COVID-19 vaccination once everyone who wants a vaccine, can get the vaccine? Will there be a proof of "vaccination" card provided to people who get the vaccine? **Covax is the current system being used to “document” vaccinations – not sure if this will talk to iPHIS and it isn't clear if people will carry a card or have some other way to confirm they've received the vaccine.**

If one person in the business has been vaccinated, can they refuse to follow company policies on masking and social distancing? Can we make them still do this, and should we?

It is still not clear whether a vaccine truly protects someone from getting or carrying the disease. It has been found effective in reducing the symptoms so if you do get it, you may not even know. All sanitizing, distancing and masking protocol should be maintained as long as ordered to do so.

Masks

Are masked required for staff who are working, maintaining 6ft in areas that isn't accessible to customers/clients?

People who are working “back of house” and able to maintain appropriate distancing are not required to wear a mask. This has not changed. What has changed is the requirement for all people to wear a mask in a public place (in some instances, only employees were required to do so) **Correct**

Many people say they are 'exempted' but can staff ask for proof of exemption? And who provides that proof of exemption.

There is no proof required. It is considered a violation of human rights to ask for proof. If an inspector or customer asks about the absence of a mask, a business owner can say “they are exempt” and that will be sufficient.

In situations where a business doesn't want to serve an unmasked customer, it is recommended that they offer an alternative service option (curbside delivery) and that they are consistent with this approach (if one person isn't allowed without a mask, no one is allowed without a mask).

There are no legal ramifications to denying service though you recommend doing so in the nicest way possible. **Correct**