

COVID-19 Information

What is COVID-19

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is an infectious disease caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2. The disease was first identified in 2019 in Wuhan, China, and has since spread globally, resulting in the 2019–20 coronavirus pandemic.

[John Hopkins University](#) reports the COVID-19 situation is changing rapidly. Since this disease is caused by a new virus, people do not have immunity to it, and a vaccine may be many months away. Doctors and scientists are working on estimating the mortality rate of COVID-19, but at present, it is thought to be higher than that of most strains of the flu.

Latest News as of March 19, 2020

- [Ontario Supporting Workers, Municipalities and Retailers in Response to COVID-19](#)
- [Statement: Update on Ontario Parks Operations in Response to COVID-19 \(March 18, 2020\)](#)
- [Canada's COVID-19 Economic Response Plan: Support for Canadians and Businesses](#)
- [Statement: Death in Ontario Potentially Related to COVID-19 \(March 17, 2020\)](#)
- [News Release: Ontario Enacts Declaration of Emergency to Protect the Public \(March 17, 2020\)](#)
- [Statement: Ontario Takes Further Action to Contain the Spread of COVID-19 \(March 16, 2020\)](#)
- [Statement: Enhanced Measures to Protect Ontarians from COVID-19 \(March 16, 2020\)](#)
- [Statement: Statement from the Minister of Finance on the 2019 Novel Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) and Ontario's Economy \(March 16, 2020\)](#)
- [News Release: Premier Ford Announces Job Protection for Workers during the COVID-19 Situation \(March 16, 2020\)](#)

Sources of Information

The following websites have the most update information on COVID-19 and are updated daily.

Government of Ontario

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/2019-novel-coronavirus>

Public Health Ontario

<https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/diseases-and-conditions/infectious-diseases/respiratory-diseases/novel-coronavirus>

- Fact Sheet: Cleaning and Disinfection for Public Settings
<https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/documents/ncov/factsheet-covid-19-environmental-cleaning.pdf?la=en>
- Fact Sheet: How to Self-Monitor
<https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/documents/ncov/factsheet-covid-19-self-monitor.pdf?la=en>

- Fact Sheet: How to Self-Isolate
<https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/documents/ncov/factsheet-covid-19-how-to-self-isolate.pdf?la=en>
- Fact Sheet: Self-isolation: Guide for caregivers, household members and close contacts
<https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/documents/ncov/factsheet-covid-19-guide-isolation-caregivers.pdf?la=en>

Health Canada

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/coronavirus-disease-covid-19.html>

World Health Organization

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>

Canadian Mental Health Association (COVID-19 and Mental Health)

<https://cmha.ca/news/covid-19-and-mental-health>

Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety

<https://www.ccohs.ca/oshanswers/diseases/coronavirus.html>

IHSA

An excellent source of Health and Safety information and tools

https://www.ihsa.ca/pdfs/safety_talks/covid-19.pdf

WSIB

<https://www.wsib.ca/en/novel-coronavirus-covid-19-update>

Best Practices

If you start to feel symptoms of COVID-19

- Anyone who begins to feel unwell (fever, new cough or difficulty breathing) should return home and self-isolate immediately.
- People who are self-isolating should seek clinical assessment over the phone - either through Telehealth Ontario (1-866-797-0000) or by calling their primary care provider's office. If you need additional assessment, your primary care provider or Telehealth will direct you to in-person care options.
- If you need immediate medical attention you should call 911 and mention your travel history and symptoms.

Take these everyday steps to reduce exposure to the virus and protect your health:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water or alcohol-based hand sanitizer
- Practice social distancing
- Sneeze and cough into your sleeve
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth
- Avoid commonly touched areas including handrails, public transit poles,
- Open doors and touch elevator buttons with gloves, the back of your hand, or other body part

- Wash your clothes as soon as you get home
- Notify your supervisor immediately if you are sick and contact public health.
- Avoid contact with people who are sick
- Stay home if you are sick

In the Workplace

- The Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development is responding to inquiries regarding worker protections for COVID-19 and continues to investigate all complaints related to workplace health and safety to provide support, advice and enforcement, including proactive inspections as needed to ensure the health and safety of Ontario's workers.
- Employers are required to report all occupational illnesses, including COVID-19, to the Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development in writing within four days. Employers are also required to notify their joint health and safety committee or a health and safety representative and a trade union, if they exist.
- Ensure health and safety policies are updated and posted for all employees to see. Use industry resources including those produced by the ILSA will improve on site understanding.
- All employees need to have COVID-19 policies that are posted and communicated with to all employees and contractors/trades.
- Keep workplaces clean and hygienic – increase frequency of cleaning high-touch surfaces such as elevator buttons, keyboards, mouse, phones, desks, computers, seating areas, lunch tables, kitchens, washrooms, etc.
- Work from home if possible
- Employers should advise all workers experiencing symptoms to contact public health.
- Stay home if they are sick

Other Resources

- **Ontario Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development's dedicated COVID19 website:**
<https://www.ontario.ca/page/2019-novel-coronavirus>
- **The Canadian Construction Association's online Pandemic Preparedness Guide:**
<https://www.cca-acc.com/covid-19-resources/>
- **Sherrard Kuzz LPP – Briefing Notes**
<https://www.sherrardkuzz.com/news-resources/?data-category=briefing>
- **Ottawa Construction Association - Proposed Protocol on JOBSITE MEASURES to be taken with Covid-19**
<https://docs.google.com/viewer?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.oca.ca%2Fdocs%2FTemplateCOVIDpolicy.docx>