

**COVID-19**  
**Easing Restrictions for Retail Stores and**  
**Expanding Essential Construction**  
May 7, 2020

Yesterday, the Ontario government [announced](#) the emergency orders made under the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act*, including the closure of non-essential workplaces, have been **extended to May 19, 2020**. In addition, restrictions on retail stores will be amended as follows:

- **Garden centres and nurseries:** As of Friday, May 8 at 12:01 a.m. - permitted to open for in-store payment and purchases, operating under the same guidelines as grocery stores and pharmacies.
- **Hardware stores and safety supply stores:** As of Saturday, May 9 at 12:01 a.m. - permitted to open for in-store payment and payment and purchases.
- **Retail stores with a street entrance:** As of May Monday, 11 at 12:01 a.m. - may offer curbside pickup and delivery, in accordance with the [Ministry of Health's Guidance Document for Essential Workplaces](#) and occupational health and safety requirements.

The Ontario government also **expanded essential construction** to allow below-grade multi-residential construction projects to begin work (e.g., apartments and condominiums) and existing above-grade projects to continue.

All businesses must follow public health measures and should review the workplace safety guidelines regarding physical distancing and frequent handwashing, sanitizing surfaces, physical barriers, staggered shifts, and contactless payment options.

For **Answers to Frequently Asked Questions for Employers Regarding COVID-19**, please refer to our most recent [Briefing Note](#).

**If you need assistance, please contact your Sherrard Kuzz LLP lawyer or, if you are not yet a Sherrard Kuzz LLP client, our firm at [info@sherrardkuzz.com](mailto:info@sherrardkuzz.com) with the re: line: COVID-19. We'll respond promptly.**

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