

Ontario Government Launches COVID-19 Workplace Inspection Blitz

November 20, 2020

The Government of Ontario has commenced a workplace education and enforcement campaign across the province to ensure businesses takes precautions necessary to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Approximately 200 provincial offence and by-law officers are visiting businesses in targeted regions of the province, without notice, to ensure compliance with public health and safety requirements set out in [Ontario Regulation 364/20](#) and [Ontario Regulation 263/20](#) under the *Reopening Ontario (A Flexible Response to COVID-19) Act, 2020*.

In early November, officers visited businesses in the regions of Peel and London-Middlesex. The campaign is currently underway in Waterloo Region and will move next to the regions of Ottawa, York, Eastern Ontario and the City of Toronto.

Fines and penalties for non-compliance range from a ticket of \$750 to much more significant penalties if appropriate. If convicted, an individual can be fined up to \$100,000 (\$500,000 if a director or officer of a corporation) and face imprisonment of up to one year. A corporation can be fined up to \$10,000,000.

Every business should review its health and safety protocols to ensure adequate control measures to address COVID-19.

Any business required to have a [workplace safety plan](#) should ensure it is prepared and available for inspection. The following businesses are required to have a workplace safety plan if they operate in a region of the province **not** currently coded “Green/Prevent” under the [COVID-19 Response Framework](#):

- Restaurants, bars and food or drink establishments
- Sports and recreational facilities
- Meeting and event spaces
- Malls
- Personal care services
- Casinos, bingo halls and other gaming establishments
- Cinemas and performing arts facilities

For assistance, including preparing your workplace safety plan, contact your Sherrard Kuzz lawyer or, if you are not yet a client, contact us at info@sherrardkuzz.com.

