

New Workplace Closure Orders Take Effect in Peel and Toronto

April 22, 2021

Both the Region of Peel and City of Toronto have introduced a class order to mandate workplace closure to control the spread of COVID-19. The class orders take effect **Friday, April 23, 2021**. The [Peel class order](#) is publicly available and updates an earlier class order related to COVID-19 and the workplace. The [City of Toronto class order](#) is not yet available but is expected to contain substantially similar requirements related to workplace closure. If the City of Toronto class order is not substantially similar, we will update our readers.

Under each class order, a workplace premise is required to close (or a shift or work area dismissed) for a **10 calendar-day** period, or as specified by the Public Health:

- if the workplace premises has five or more laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases within a 14 day calendar period, and
- the cases could have reasonably acquired COVID-19 at the workplace or there is no obvious source of infection that has been identified outside of the workplace.

Full closure will not be required for:

- Schools/childcare
- Pharmacies
- Healthcare facilities, including vaccination clinics
- Shelters
- First responder emergency services (such as fire, paramedics, police)
- Critical infrastructure (water/wastewater, treatment facilities, utilities, IT, telecommunications, transportation, energy)
- Government services
- Services required to maintain the health of animals
- Other workplace premises exempted from closure by Public Health

Worker Obligations

If a workplace premise is ordered closed, any asymptomatic worker must self-isolate for 10 calendar days or for such time as the workplace premise is closed. If the worker has COVID-19, has been in close contact with someone with COVID-19 or becomes symptomatic, they must self-isolate in accordance with existing Public Health requirements. Any impacted worker must not work in any other workplace during the period of isolation.

If a worker becomes symptomatic they are to be tested as soon as possible. Asymptomatic workers are also encouraged to seek testing, although testing is not required as a condition to re-open any workplace premise or for an asymptomatic worker to return to work.

Any positive case should be reported to the employer immediately.

Notification to the Public

Notice of closure may be provided initially by Public Health and followed up in writing when possible.

The owner, operator or person responsible for a workplace premise required to close shall post the closure notice at the entrance of the premise in a manner that is conspicuous to the public.

Additionally, the Region of Peel has indicated it will publish on its website the name of any business ordered to close. Information about workplace outbreaks and closure will continue to be published on the City of Toronto's website.

To learn more and/or for assistance with any COVID-19 related issue, contact your Sherrard Kuzz LLP lawyer or, if you are not yet a client, contact us at info@sherrardkuzz.com with the re line: COVID-19.

*The information contained in this article is provided for general information purposes only and does not constitute legal or other professional advice, nor does accessing this information create a lawyer-client relationship. This article is current as of **April 22, 2021** and applies only to Ontario, Canada, or such other laws of Canada as expressly indicated. Information about the law is checked for legal accuracy as at the date the article is prepared, but may become outdated as laws or policies change. For clarification or for legal or other professional assistance please contact Sherrard Kuzz LLP.*

