

## **UPDATED: New Workplace Closure Order Takes Effect in Toronto**

**UPDATED: April 23, 2021**

Further to our [earlier briefing note](#) on this topic, the City of Toronto [class order](#) is now available. While many of the requirements are similar to that in the Peel class order, there are some differences. **This briefing note specifically summarizes the requirements applicable in the City of Toronto.**

Under the class order, the owner, operator or occupier of a workplace is required to notify Toronto Public Health [online](#) as soon as they become aware of five or more confirmed or probable cases of COVID-19 in individuals who have attended the workplace in a 14 calendar-day period.

If there have been five or more confirmed or probable cases of COVID-19 in a 14 calendar-day period, Toronto Public Health may require:

- full workplace closure for a minimum of **10 calendar days**
- partial workplace closure (or shift or work area mass dismissal) for a minimum of **10 calendar days**, or
- other significant interventions necessary to address the circumstances at a particular workplace.

Even in the absence of five or more probable or confirmed cases of COVID-19 in a 14 calendar-day period, Toronto Public Health may impose any of those measures if there is other evidence of workplace transmission.

Full closure will not be required for:

- Shelters
- First responder emergency services (such as fire, paramedics, police)
- Public-facing government services
- 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

### **Temporary Access**

Temporary access to a closed workplace is authorized for extenuating circumstances, such as to allow for:

- inspections, maintenance and repairs to be carried out at the workplace
- security services
- performance of work required by law
- critical matters relating to the closure to be dealt with, if they cannot be dealt with remotely
- materials, goods, or supplies necessary for the business to operate remotely.

## Worker Obligations

If a workplace premise is ordered closed, any asymptomatic worker must self-isolate for at least 10 calendar days. 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 the existing [Isolation Class Order](#).

## Notice to the Public

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.

Information about workplace outbreaks and closure will continue to be published on the City of Toronto's website.

## Exemptions

This class order does not apply to schools, school boards, licenced child care programs, health care providers or health care entities.

**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](mailto:info@sherrardkuzz.com) with the re line: COVID-19.**

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