

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 with the re line: COVID-19.

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