

Update from the Premier

January 12, 2021

Dear Community, Families & Stakeholders:

Ontario is implementing another Province wide state of emergency and cracking down on retail hours and gathering sizes as COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations and deaths reach record highs.

Some new restrictions that are being implemented:

- As of Thursday January 14th, at 12:01 a.m. the government is issuing a stayat-home order for at least 28 days requiring everyone to remain at home with exceptions for essential purposes.
- The state of emergency gives the government the power to enact new measures beyond those included in the province-wide lockdown, which began on Dec. 26, 2020.
- An emergency order allows the government to close more businesses, prohibit events and gatherings and order people to stay home.
- Ford also announced that retailers will be subject to shorter operation hours and that gathering sizes will be reduced from 10 to 5 people, with limited exceptions.
- One new change is that non-essential workers who are currently working at their places of employment will be required to work from home or could face fines.
- Non-essential construction will also be restricted, including below-grade construction, exempting survey.
- Non-essential retail stores will be allowed to remain open but will be required to close from 8 p.m. to 7 a.m., in an effort to discourage late night shopping. (These stores will be permitted to have all their aisles open.)

- The restricted hours of operation do not apply to stores that primarily sell food, pharmacies, gas stations, convenience stores, and restaurants for takeout or delivery.
- Restaurant pick up and delivery will still be allowed throughout the lockdown.
- Health care services, including dental offices, physiotherapy and chiropractors remain open.

Our agency will continue to follow these guidelines in order to ensure the safety of the people we support.

The modelling that the Province has shared, indicates that the next 2-3 months will be very challenging. At this point, our day programs will continue to be closed and the family visits continue to be on hold until further notice.

Sincerely,

Judy Pryde