

# CLIENT ALERT

March 2, 2021

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## UPDATE (MARCH 1, 2021) – NEW COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH MEASURES IN EFFECT IN ONTARIO

by Wendy G. Hulton and Dan Poliwoda

On March 1, 2021, [new public health measures](#) to limit the spread of COVID-19 went into effect in Ontario. These measures represent the Government of Ontario moving multiple public health regions to new levels of its [COVID-19 Response Framework](#).

- **Simcoe Muskoka District** and **Thunder Bay District** move back to the grey zone (lockdown) due to a “[rapid worsening](#)” in key local public health indicators.
- **Niagara Region** moves to the red (control) zone.
- **Chatham-Kent, Middlesex-London**, and **Southwestern** move to the orange (restrict) zone.
- **Haldimand-Norfolk** and **Huron Perth District** move to the yellow (protect) zone.
- **Grey-Bruce** moves to the green (prevent) zone.

The Government of Ontario confirmed that **Toronto, Peel**, and **North Bay Parry Sound District** will remain under shutdown measures and a stay-at-home order until at least March 8.

You can track your municipality’s public health unit [here](#).

You can view an interactive map and complete list of every Ontario region’s designated colour zone [here](#).

### ONTARIO’S COVID-19 RESPONSE FRAMEWORK

In November 2020, the Government of Ontario released a colour-coded framework to help Ontarians navigate the next phase of the pandemic. The colours/measures apply to regional public health units, and are as follows:

- **Grey (Lockdown):** Widescale measures and restrictions, including closures, to halt or interrupt transmission.
- **Red (Control):** Broader-scale measures and restrictions, across multiple sectors, to control transmission.
- **Orange (Restrict):** Enhanced measures, restrictions, and enforcement avoiding any closures.
- **Yellow (Protect):** Enhanced targeted enforcement, fines, and enhanced education to limit further transmission.
- **Green (Prevent):** Focus on education and awareness of public health and workplace safety measures in place.

You can find more information regarding Ontario’s COVID-19 Response Framework [here](#).

### ONTARIO’S COVID-19 VACCINATION PROGRAM

According to the head of the Government of Ontario’s immunization task force, the Ontario COVID-19 vaccine appointment call centre is expected to [start operation shortly](#) and will begin accepting appointment bookings for residents 80 years old.

In the coming weeks, an online portal will be launched for Ontario residents to book appointments with the following schedule, assuming the supplies of vaccines stays steady:

- **April 15:** Vaccinations begin for people 75 years old and over.
- **May 1:** Vaccinations begin for people 70 years old and over.
- **June 1:** Vaccinations begin for people 65 years and over.
- **July 1:** Vaccinations begin for people 60 years and over.

You can keep up to date on the status of vaccines administered in Ontario and consult Ontario’s three-phased approach to vaccine programming [here](#).

### KEY CONTACTS



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*Please Note: These materials do not constitute legal or medical advice. Government initiatives, announcements, and regulations in response to the COVID-19 situation continue to evolve and change frequently.*