

COVID-19 Class Order

November 15, 2020

Under what authority did Peel Public Health issue a class order related to workplaces?

The Health Protection and Promotion Act (HPPA) authorizes the Medical Officer of Health to issue a class order to address the risks presented by the potential spread of COVID-19 to residents of Peel.

Why did the Medical Officer of Health issue this class order?

This class order was issued as a result of the continued increase in the numbers of people contracting COVID-19 in Peel, and experiences in similar cities around the world. The class order strengthens Peel Public Health's ability to reduce the loss of life from COVID-19, and preserve and protect the capacity of our health care system to respond and to provide care for those who need it. It also underscores how important it is for each resident to protect our community and save lives from COVID-19.

While the vast majority of workplaces are compliant with instructions from public health authorities to address cases of COVID-19 in the workplace, there are workplaces who do not take their responsibilities seriously enough or do not cooperate with Peel Public Health during workplace investigations.

This class order is a legal tool to help ensure that all workplaces follow the measures required to protect employees.

What are workplaces required to do under this order?

- Exclude from the workplace anyone who:
 - Are identified as a person diagnosed with COVID-19.
 - Have the signs and symptoms of COVID-19, have been tested for COVID-19 and are awaiting their test results.
 - Otherwise have reasonable grounds to believe they have symptoms of COVID-19.
 - Are a close contact of a person diagnosed with COVID-19 or with symptoms of COVID-19.
- Instruct individuals described above to follow instructions under the [Section 22 class order related to self-isolation](#)
- Implement measures outlined through provincial regulation, the advice of the Chief Medical Officer of Health of Ontario, and sector-specific guidance documents:
 - On-site screening of symptoms and exclusion of employees and visitors with any symptoms of COVID-19;

- Ensure occupancy of the premises and physical distancing of 2m between persons is maintained in all work areas, lunchrooms, change rooms, washrooms;
- Workers shall be provided with appropriate personal protective equipment including medical grade mask, if work arrangements or environment cannot be altered to allow the required 2m distancing at all times;
- Ensure signage regarding the taking of COVID-19 safety measures available from Peel Public Health or other authorities is available throughout the workplace premises;
- Ensure non-essential visitors are not permitted on the premises to avoid crowding;
- Ensure face coverings are used correctly and consistently inside the workplace by all employees and visitors;
- Ensure availability of adequate hand hygiene supplies;
- Ensure appropriate cleaning and disinfection of workspaces, with focus on high touch surfaces;
- Support self-isolation for workers with COVID-19 symptoms and workers who are close contacts of COVID-19 cases.
- If two or more cases of COVID-19 are identified within the workplace within a period of 14 days, the workplace must:
 - Immediately notify Peel Public Health
 - Prepare the list of close contacts of these persons
 - Maintain a log of all persons who attend on the premises
 - Notify the Ontario Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development, or other relevant governmental authorities
 - Provide contact details of the most responsible decisionmaker at the workplace premises;
 - Be readily available for contact by Peel Public Health to implement any additional measures immediately as required by Peel Public Health; and,
 - Cooperate with infection protection and control personnel from Peel Public Health including allowing entry into the workplace premises for inspection

What is a close contact?

A close contact is a person who has had a high-risk exposure to a confirmed or probable COVID-19 case within the past 14 days (e.g., caring for or living in the same household as person with COVID-19), or is identified as a close contact by Public Health.

What information is available for employees about self-isolation?

Employees can find information about symptoms, testing and self-isolation on the Region of Peel COVID-19 webpage at: peelregion.ca/coronavirus/testing/

When is the order effective?

The class order is effective from November 16, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. and will remain in effect until such time as the Medical Officer of Health determines it is no longer required.

Are there any exceptions?

There are no exceptions.

What should I do if I am concerned that a workplace is not following the order?

Peel Public Health is responsible for following up on concerns of non-compliance with the order. To report an issue, please call Peel Public Health at 905-799-7700 or in Caledon at 905-584-2216.

Can a workplace challenge the order?

Individuals identified in the class order may challenge the order by appealing to the Health Services Appeal and Review Board. Visit the Health Services Appeal and Review Board website for contact information.

More Information

If you have questions about the class order, please call [Peel Public Health at 905-799-7700](tel:905-799-7700) or in [Caledon at 905-584-2216](tel:905-584-2216).