

NEWS RELEASE

Ontario Maintains COVID-19 Restrictions as Stay-at-Home Order is Set to Expire

Measures address ongoing risks as province prepares to safely and cautiously reopen

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Ministry of the Solicitor General

TORONTO — As was previously announced, Ontario's Stay-at-Home order will expire on June 2, 2021. When it does, all other public health and workplace measures will remain in place provincially until Ontario enters Step One of the Roadmap to Reopen, at which point some restrictions will ease with an initial focus on outdoor settings.

"We've seen great progress in our fight against COVID-19 in recent weeks, but now is not the time to let our guard down," said Solicitor General Sylvia Jones. "With the Stay-At-Home order set to expire, we need to provide people with certainty so that they can continue to follow public health guidance. Doing so will help us to meet our goal of starting to gradually lift some restrictions when we enter Step One of the Roadmap when it is safe to do so."

On April 7, 2021, in response to the rapid increase in COVID-19 transmission driven by new, more contagious variants, the Ontario government declared a provincial emergency and issued a Stay-at-Home order as well as enhanced public health measures. In a concentrated effort to reduce mobility and opportunities for transmission, the Stay-At-Home order required Ontarians to remain at home except for the purposes set out in the order, such as exercise, going to the grocery store or pharmacy, or accessing health care services. Once the Stay-at-Home order expires on June 2, these restrictions will no longer be in effect.

However, all other existing measures will remain in place provincially, including restrictions on gatherings, businesses, services and activities. This includes limiting indoor gatherings to households only and outdoor gatherings to up to five people, subject to limited exceptions, maintaining a cap of 25 per cent capacity for essential retail where only certain goods are permitted to be sold, restricting non-essential retail to curbside pickup and delivery only, as well as limiting short-term rentals to individuals in need of housing and allowing Ontario Parks and campgrounds on public lands to be used for day-use only, subject to limited exceptions.

Ontarians will be able to leave home to travel within the province to a secondary residence for any reason, however, they are not be permitted to host members of another household indoors except for a person from another household who lives alone or a caregiver.

A simple, easy-to-understand summary of restrictions can be found on the province's "Reopening Ontario" webpage, which provides details on what public health measures are in place before the province enters Step One of the Roadmap to Reopen. As always, anyone who may have been exposed to COVID-19 or who may be exhibiting symptoms of the virus should use the province's self-assessment tool to determine what they should do next, including getting a test and isolating if necessary.

"As we continue to accelerate second doses of the COVID-19 vaccine for Ontarians, maintaining public health measures will ensure we continue to protect our hospital capacity and help stop the spread of COVID-19 variants," said Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health. "As we look towards Step One of Ontario's Roadmap and begin to gradually lift public health measures, it remains critical that all Ontarians continue to follow public health advice and roll up their sleeves to receive the vaccine. Every dose administered means we are one step closer to the end of the pandemic."

With the expiry of the Stay-at-Home order, emergency order O. Reg 266/21 (Residential Evictions) will also expire on June 2, 2021. Emergency orders currently in effect under the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act have been extended until June 16, 2021:

- O. Reg. 8/21 Enforcement of COVID-19 Measures
- O. Reg. 55/21 Compliance Orders for Retirement Homes
- O. Reg. 271/21 Work Redeployment for Local Health Integration Networks and Ontario Health
- O. Reg. 272/21 Transfer of Hospital Patients
- O. Reg. 288/21 Closure of Public Lands for Recreational Camping
- O. Reg. 293/21 Persons Entering Ontario From Manitoba or Quebec
- O. Reg. 304/21 Work Redeployment for Independent Health Facilities
- O. Reg. 305/21 Regulated Health Professionals
- O. Reg. 317/21 Agreements Between Health Service Providers and Retirement Homes

Additional Resources

- Ontario Releases Three-Step Roadmap to Safely Reopen the Province
- For up-to-date information on the province's vaccine rollout and instructions on how to book an appointment, visit Ontario's vaccine webpage.
- For resources in multiple languages to help local communication efforts in responding to COVID-19, visit Ontario's COVID-19 communication resources webpage.
- Visit Ontario's website to learn more about how the province continues to protect the people of Ontario from COVID-19.