

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE NEW MEASURES IN THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO SHUTDOWN



Stay-at-home

- Residents must always remain at home, with exceptions for essential purposes, such as going to the grocery store or pharmacy, accessing health care services, for exercise or for essential work. It is unclear how the Province plans to enforce these measures and according to a news report this AM, the ON Chiefs of Police have requested clarification from the Province on what and when to enforce.
- Businesses across the province must ensure that any employee who can work from home, does so.

Mask use

- Individuals are still required to wear a mask or face covering in the indoor areas of businesses or organizations.

Retail hours

- Non-essential stores must open no earlier than 7 a.m. and close no later than 8 p.m., including hardware stores, alcohol retailers, and those offering curbside pickup or delivery.
- Restrictions do not apply to stores that primarily sell food, pharmacies, gas stations, convenience stores and restaurants for takeout and deliver.

Non-essential construction

- Non-essential construction, including below-grade projects, will be limited. This should not impact construction at food processing locations.

In General:

These new measures do not appear to require significant change in current operating practices of essential businesses such as food processing and their supply chains. However, going forward these business should expect to have greater scrutiny of their business practices related to COVID prevention with a focus on high transmission areas such as lunch/break rooms, smoking areas and car-pooling.

A potential unintended consequence in the Stay-at-Home order may be an increase in employee absenteeism for essential workplaces as employees use the stay home order as a rationale not to attend work.