

What you need to know: HPPH Class Order, Section 22: Self-Isolation

Under what authority did Huron Perth Public Health (HPPH) issue a Class Order?

The Ontario [Health Protection and Promotion Act](#) allows the Medical Officer of Health to issue a Class Order to prevent the spread of a communicable disease and protect people's health. This Order addresses the risks of COVID-19 spread in Huron and Perth counties.

Why did the Medical Officer of Health issue this Class Order?

- COVID-19 has been designated as communicable under Ontario Regulation 135/18. This means that the virus is contagious and can be spread to other people.
- The World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a pandemic. A pandemic is when disease occurs over a wide geographic area (such as multiple countries or continents) and usually affects a large proportion of the population. COVID-19 is present in many countries around the world.
- The Province of Ontario has declared an emergency under the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act because of the pandemic.
- COVID-19 is present in the region served by Huron Perth Public Health, i.e. Huron and Perth counties. Therefore the virus poses a health risk to the residents of the region because it can spread from one person to another. Most residents are following public health measures as directed by Huron Perth Public Health, but not everyone takes these measures seriously. This Order is meant to strengthen the Health Unit's ability to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and protect the health of individuals living in our region.

Who is required to comply with this Order?

The Order applies to all persons residing in or present in the health unit's region (Huron and Perth counties) who:

- a) Are identified as a confirmed case or probable case of COVID-19 or
- b) Have new symptoms (even mild symptoms) or worsening symptoms of COVID-19, have been tested for COVID-19 and are awaiting the results of their test; or
- c) Otherwise, have reasonable grounds to believe they now have symptoms (even mild symptoms) of COVID-19, or have had such symptoms within the past ten (10) days; or
- d) Are a close contact of a person identified above:
 - a. even if they do not themselves have any symptoms of COVID-19; or

b. even if they are a parent, or person with responsibilities of a parent, of a person under 16 years of age who cannot reasonably isolate on their own if they fail to make alternate arrangements to ensure isolation for the child

What does the Order entail?

- If you are a confirmed case or probable case of COVID-19; have new symptoms (even mild symptoms) or worsening symptoms of COVID-19, have been tested for COVID-19 and are awaiting the results of your test; or otherwise, have reasonable grounds to believe you now have symptoms (even mild symptoms) of COVID-19, or have had such symptoms within the past ten (10) days:
 - You must remain in self-isolation for a minimum 10-day period that begins on the day you first show symptoms, are tested or diagnosed with COVID-19, whichever is earliest unless otherwise instructed by Huron Perth Public Health in accordance with the current Ministry of Health guidelines, as amended.
- If you are a close contact of a person identified as a confirmed or probable case of COVID-19 (even if you do not have any symptoms of COVID-19):
 - You must remain in self-isolation for 14 days from the day on which you last had close contact with the person with confirmed/probable COVID-19, unless otherwise instructed by Huron Perth Public Health.
 - If during this 14 day period you are tested for COVID-19 and the test result is negative, you must still complete the 14 days of self-isolation.
 - If you are the parent, or have the responsibilities of a parent, for a person under 16 years of age who is identified as a close contact to a confirmed or probable case, you must do your best to isolate the child. If unable to isolate the child safely, and choose to isolate with them, you should continue isolation in the home for 14 days from child's last potential infectious date.
- While in self-isolation, you must not do anything that would expose another person to infection or possible infection from COVID-19. You must follow the instructions on self-isolation found here: <https://www.hp-ph.ca/en/resources/factsheet-covid-19-how-to-self-isolate.pdf> .
- During self-isolation, you must remain reachable for monitoring by Huron Perth Public Health and/or other public health staff.
- Seek prompt medical attention if your illness is worsening (e.g. difficulty breathing). Call 911 and tell them of your COVID-19 related diagnosis or symptoms.
- Follow any further directions provided to you personally by Huron Perth Public Health and/or other public health staff pertaining to COVID-19 and the terms of this Order. This includes sharing the names and contact information for all contacts and other information requested by

Huron Perth Public Health and/or other public health staff to allow them to complete case and contact management for COVID-19.

- Parents and guardians of children under 16 years of age are required to ensure compliance with this Order by the child under 16 years of age.

When is the Order effective? How long must people comply with the Order?

This order came into effective at 12:01 am on November 29, 2020. It will remain in effect until the Medical Officer of Health determines it is no longer required.

How could the Order be enforced if a person fails to comply?

Individuals residing in the region served by Huron Perth Public Health (Huron and Perth counties) must to follow the requirements under this Order. Those who do not do so, can be charged and fined no less than \$750 and no more than \$5,000 per day.

Can a person challenge the Order?

Individuals identified in the Class Order may challenge the Order by appealing to the Health Services Appeal and Review Board.

More Information

- Call Huron Perth Public Health at 1-888-221-2133
- Visit www.hpph.ca/coronavirus
 - For information about self-isolating: www.hpph.ca/coronavirus → “Self Isolation Information”
 - For information about testing: www.hpph.ca/coronavirus → “Testing, Tracing and Receiving Results”
- Email HPPH’s COVID Intake team at: COVIDIntake@hpph.ca

Addendum: Definitions

Confirmed Case: A person who has tested positive for COVID-19

Probable Case:

- A. A person (who has not had a laboratory test) with symptoms compatible with COVID-19 **AND:**
- Traveled to or from an affected area (including inside of Canada) in the 14 days prior to symptom onset; OR
 - Close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19; OR
 - Lived in or worked in a facility known to be experiencing an outbreak of COVID-19 (e.g., long-term care, prison).

OR

- B. A person with symptoms compatible with COVID-19 AND in whom laboratory diagnosis of COVID-19 is inconclusive.

OR

- C. A person with a preliminary positive result from a Health Canada approved point-of-care test

Close contact: a person who, within the past 48 hours, has had a high-risk exposure to a confirmed or probable COVID-19 case. For example, a person who:

- Lived with or otherwise had close, unprotected* and prolonged contact, e.g., within 2 metres (6 feet) for more than 15 minutes, with a probable or confirmed case of COVID-19 during the time period that they could have spread the virus to others;

*"Unprotected" means without appropriate P.P.E. (personal protective equipment). A non-medical mask or face-covering is not P.P.E. because it does not protect the wearer. A non-medical mask traps the respiratory droplets of the person wearing it and prevents those droplets from spreading to other people.

- Has been identified by Huron Perth Public Health or another public health unit as a close contact of a probable or confirmed case of COVID-19.