

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

Under what authority did Huron Perth Public Health (HPPH) issue a Class Order related to the COVID-19 pandemic?

The Ontario [Health Protection and Promotion Act](#) authorizes the Medical Officer of Health to make a Class Order to address the risks presented by the potential spread of COVID-19 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. COVID-19 has been declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization. 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 and therefore poses a risk to the health of the residents of the region through community transmission. Furthermore COVID-19 Variants of Concern (VOC) are present in Ontario and pose additional risk to the region served by Huron Perth Public Health due to increased transmissibility and/or risk of more severe illness and/or risk of vaccine escape (meaning that the current vaccine is not effective at preventing, or as effective at preventing, infection with the VOC). Most residents are compliant with public health measures directed by Huron Perth Public Health, but not everyone takes these measures seriously. This Order is a proactive measure that strengthens our ability to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and ensures the health of individuals residing 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 are identified as:

- a) A confirmed case or probable case of COVID-19;
- 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;
- 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;

d) Identified as a close contact of a person identified in a. even if they do not have any symptoms or disagree with risk assessment;

or

e) Are a parent, or person with responsibilities of a parent, of a person under 16 years of age identified in a., b., c. or d. who resides or is present in Huron and Perth counties.

What does the Order entail?

- If you have been identified as a person in a., b., c., above you must:
 - Remain in isolation for any period of time as so directed or instructed by Huron Perth Public Health up to and including 10 days following any such direction or instruction being in accordance with the then-current Ministry of Health guidelines. A copy of which can be found at: http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/coronavirus/docs/contact_mngmt/management_cases_contacts.pdf
- If you are assessed by public health as a close contact to a person identified as a confirmed or probable case of COVID-19 (even if you do not have any symptoms or disagree with the assessment):
 - You must remain in self-isolation for a period of time as so directed by Huron Perth Public Health up to and including 14 days after the day on which you last had close contact with the person with confirmed/probable COVID-19.
- While in self-isolation, you must conduct yourself, so you do not expose any another person to infection or possible infection from COVID-19. You must follow the instructions on self-isolation [found here.](#)
- 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) by calling 911 and telling them of your COVID-19 related diagnosis (e.g., case or identified close contact) and 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 permit appropriate 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. If parents/ guardians or caretakers are unable or unwilling to make reasonable attempts to isolate the contact identified (as either a high- risk contact or confirmed or probabe case) from others within the home, all family members will be required to comply with the isolation requirements for the period of time as outlined by public health.

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

This order was effective from 12:01 am on February 27, 2021. It will remain in effect until the Medical Officer of Health determines it is no longer required.

What is the definition of “Close Contact”?

"Close contact" means a person who, within the past 14 days, 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 their period of communicability;
- "Unprotected" means without appropriate P.P.E. (personal protective equipment). A non-medical mask or face-covering is not P.P.E.
- Have 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.

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) are required to follow the requirements under this Order. Those who do not do so, can be charged and fined a minimum of \$750.00 to maximum of \$5,000.00 under the Health Protection and Promotion Act for every day or part of each day on which the offence occurs or continues. Where required, Huron Perth Public Health, or it's delegate, may complete random site visits to ensure isolation requirements are being complied with.

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

If you have questions about the Class Order, please call Huron Perth Public Health at 1-888-221-2133 to speak to a member of our team.