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## What's an essential service? Here's what made the Ontario government's coronavirus outbreak

News Mar 23, 2020 by [Chris Halliday \(/kawartha-author/chris-halliday/DC6772DA-876A-4E14-82FF-E7C4F0F735\)](#)  
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*As the coronavirus cases curve continues to ascend across Ontario, Premier Doug Ford has announced the pending shutdown starting shortly before midnight on March 24. - Steve Russell/Toronto Star*

The Doug Ford government has revealed what businesses and/or services will be permitted to continue to operate as essential services as pandemic.

As the coronavirus cases curve continues to ascend across Ontario, Premier Doug Ford has announced the pending shutdown of all non-ess midnight on Tuesday (March 24).

"Some people will ask why or why now? The answer is clear we must get ahead of this virus to beat this virus," Ford said, pointing to Italy and action.

"We've seen health systems overwhelmed. We've seen heartache and loss and we've seen countries lose this battle. We in Ontario will not f the spread and flatten the curve."

Ontario released its list of services that will be allowed to remain open on Monday night. Here's what the province will deem essential for th

NOTE: For the purposes of the province's order, businesses include any-for-profit, non-profit or other entity providing the goods and s

This does not preclude the provision of work and services by entities not on this list either online, by telephone or by mail/delivery.

Note that teleworking and online commerce are permitted at all times for all businesses.

### *Supply chains*

1. Businesses that supply other essential businesses or essential services with the support, supplies, systems or services, including process maintenance necessary to operate;

### *Retail and Wholesaling*

2. Businesses engaged in the retail and wholesale sale of food, pet food and supplies, and household consumer products necessary to main of residences and businesses, including grocery stores, supermarkets, convenience stores, markets and other similar retailers;

3. Businesses that provide essential items for the health and welfare of animals, including feed, animal food, pet food and animal supplies in

4. Beer, wine and liquor stores and alcohol producers, and stores that sell beer and wine through arrangements with authorized providers;

5. Gas stations, diesel, propane and heating fuel providers including providers of motor vehicle, aircraft and water/marine craft fuels;

6. Motor vehicle, auto-supply, auto and motor-vehicle-repair, including bicycle repair, aircraft repair, heavy equipment repair, watercraft/n related facilities;

7. Hardware stores and stores that provide hardware products necessary to the essential operations of residences and businesses;

8. Business providing pharmaceuticals and pharmaceutical services, including pharmacies and dispensaries;

9. Businesses that supply office products and services, including providing computer products and related repair and maintenance service: essential businesses;

10. Safety supply stores (for e.g. work clothes, Personal Protective Equipment);

### *Food Services and Accommodations*

11. Restaurants and other food facilities that prepare and serve food, but only for delivery or takeaway, together with food delivery services

12. Hotels, motels, shared rental units and similar facilities, including student residences;

### *Institutional, Residential, Commercial and Industrial Maintenance*

13. Businesses that provide support and maintenance services, including urgent repair, to maintain the safety, security, sanitation and essential services for commercial and residential properties and buildings, including, property management services, plumbers, electricians, custodial/janitorial workers, clear sprinkler systems, building systems maintenance and repair technicians and engineers, mechanics, (e.g. HVAC, escalator and elevator technicians) and similar services

#### *Telecommunications and IT Infrastructure/Service Providers*

14. Businesses engaged in providing or supporting Information Technology (IT) including online services, software products and related services centres and other network facilities necessary for their operation and delivery;

15. Businesses providing telecommunications services (phone, internet, radio, cell phones etc) as well as support facilities such as call centres

#### *Transportation*

16. Taxis and other private transportation providers providing transportation services necessary for activities of daily living;

17. Businesses and facilities that provide transportation services to businesses and individuals including by air, water, road, and rail including warehousing and storage, including truck stops and tow operators;

18. Businesses that provide materials and services for the operation, maintenance and safety of transportation systems (road, transit, rail, and air) services such as clearing snow, response to collisions, and completing needed repairs to the transportation systems.

#### *Manufacturing and Production*

19. Businesses that extract, manufacture, process and distribute goods, products, equipment and materials, including businesses that manufacture metal/ steel, blow molding, component manufacturers, chemicals, etc. that feed the end-product manufacturer);

20. Businesses, facilities and services that support and facilitate the two-way movement of essential goods within integrated North America

#### *Agriculture and food production*

21. Businesses that farm, harvest, process, manufacture, produce or distribute food, including beverages, crops, animal products and by-products

22. Businesses that support the food supply chain including assembly yards, livestock auctions, food distribution hubs, feed mills, farm equipment warehouses, animal slaughter plants and grain elevators;

23. Businesses that support the safety of food including animal and plant health and animal welfare;

24. Businesses that provide veterinary services, and that supply veterinary and animal control medications and related supplies and testing

25. Businesses that help to ensure safe and effective waste management including deadstock, rendering, nutrient management, bio hazardous waste

#### *Construction*

26. Construction projects and services associated with the healthcare sector, including new facilities, expansions, renovations and conversions of care space;

27. Construction projects and services required to ensure safe and reliable operations of critical provincial infrastructure, including transit, and the day-to-day maintenance;

28. Construction work and services, including demolition services, in the industrial, commercial, institutional and residential sectors;

29. Construction work and services that supports health and safety environmental rehabilitation projects

#### *Financial activities*

30. Capital markets (e.g., the TSX);

31. Banking & Activities related to Credit Intermediation; credit unions;

32. Insurance;

33. Businesses that provide pension services and employee benefits services;

34. Businesses that provide financial services including payment processing, the payroll division of any employer (as defined by the *Employment Act*), any entity whose operation is the administration of payroll, banks and credit unions;

#### *Resources*

35. Businesses that ensure global continuity of supply of mining materials and products (e.g. metals such as copper, nickel and gold) and that including;

a. Mining operations, production and processing;

b. Mineral exploration and development;

c. Mining Supply and Services that support supply chains in the mining industry including maintenance of operations, health and safety.

36. Businesses that provide chemicals and gases to support the natural resource sector analytical labs and drinking water and wastewater s

37. Businesses that ensure global continuity of supply of forestry products (e.g. lumber, pulp, paper, wood fuel, etc.);

38. Businesses that ensure global continuity of supply of aggregates to support critical infrastructure repairs and emergency response requ

39. Businesses that ensure global continuity of supply of petroleum and petroleum by-products;

#### *Environmental Services*

40. Businesses that support environmental management/monitoring and spill clean-up and response, including environmental consulting fir septic haulers, well drillers, pesticides applicators and exterminators, management of industrial sewage/effluent (eg for mining operations)

#### *Utilities and Community Services*

41. Utilities, and Businesses that support the provision of utilities and community services, including by providing products, materials and se community services:

a. Waste Collection, Waste/ Sewage Treatment and Disposal, operation of landfills, and Hazardous Waste Disposal;

b. Potable drinking water;

c. Electricity Generation, transmission, distribution and storage;

d. Natural Gas distribution, transmission and storage,

e. Road construction and maintenance;

f. police, fire, emergency services including coroner services and pathology services ;

g. corrections and courts services;

h. other government services including licenses and permits;

42. Businesses engaged in or supporting the operation, maintenance and repair of critical infrastructure (railways, dams, bridges, highways,

*Communications Industries*

43. Newspaper publishers;

44. Radio & Television Broadcasting;

45. Telecommunications providers;

*Research*

46. Businesses and organizations that maintain research facilities and engage in research, including medical research and other research an

47. Businesses that provide products and services that support research activities;

*Health Care and Seniors Care and Social Services*

48. Organizations and providers that deliver home care services;

49. Retirement homes;

50. Long-term Care Facilities;

51. Independent health facilities;

52. Laboratories and specimen collection centres;

53. Manufacturers, wholesalers, distributors and retailers of pharmaceutical products and medical supplies, including medications, medical and medical supplies

54. Manufacturers, logistics and distributors of products and/or services that support the delivery of health care in all locations (including b homes, other residential health care, physicians, nurse practitioners and midwives, and home care services);

55. Businesses that provide products and/or services that support the health sector or that provide health services, including mental health

56. Businesses that sell, rent or repair assistive/mobility/medical devices, aids and/or supplies.

57. Businesses that provide personal support services (many seniors and persons with disabilities, who can afford to, hire individuals to assi

58. Health care professionals providing emergency care including dentists optometrists and physio-therapists;

59. Not-for-profit organizations that provide critical personal support services in home and also provide residential services for individuals Independent Living and March of Dimes);

60. Businesses and all other organizations that support the provision of food, shelter, safety or protection, and/or social services and other r other vulnerable individuals, including but not limited to food banks, violence against women emergency shelters, homeless shelters, comm societies, residential services for adults with developmental disabilities and for children, and custody and detention programs for young per

*Justice Sector*

61. Professional and social services that support the legal and justice system;

*Other Businesses*

62. Rental and leasing services, including automobile, commercial and light industrial machinery and equipment rental;

63. Businesses providing mailing, shipping, courier and delivery services, including post office boxes;
64. Laundromats, dry cleaners and laundry service providers;
65. Professional services including lawyers and para-legals, engineers, accountants, translators;
66. Businesses providing funeral, mortician, cremation, transfer, and burial services, and any related goods and products (such as coffins and
67. Land registration services, and real estate agent services and moving services;
68. Businesses providing security services including private security guards; monitoring or surveillance equipment and services;
69. Businesses providing staffing services, including temporary help;
70. Businesses that support the safe operations of residences and essential businesses;
71. Businesses that provide for the health and welfare of animals, including veterinarians, farms, boarding kennels, stables, animal shelters, service providers;
72. Child care services for essential workers, and home child care services of less than six children;
73. Businesses providing cheque cashing services;

#### *Business Regulators and Inspectors*

74. Organizations, including Administrative Authorities, that regulate and inspect businesses.

by [Chris Halliday](/kawartha-author/Chris-Halliday/dc6772da-876a-4e14-82ff-e7c4f0f7390a/) (</kawartha-author/Chris-Halliday/dc6772da-876a-4e14-82ff-e7c4f0f7390a/>)

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