



NEWS

What are the fines for social gatherings, breaking COVID-19 rules in Ontario?

Penalties start at \$750

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Wednesday, January 6, 2021

It's 12 days into Ontario's lockdown and a number of residents and business owners across the province have experienced the repercussions of not complying with the most recent legislation.

The [provincewide shutdown](#), which began Dec. 26, prohibits Ontarians from engaging in social gatherings with members outside of their household and prevents certain businesses from opening to the public, [among other restrictions](#).

Residents who refuse to comply with the restrictions, or who obstruct a person from complying, can face fines and potential jail time.

This has been the reality for a number of Ontarians since the shutdown commenced, including most recently, [11 businesses and residents in York Region](#) who were fined between Dec. 28 and Jan. 3.

On Jan. 6, the province reported 3,266 more COVID-19 cases and 37 deaths.

Penalties

Individuals

According to the Ministry of the Solicitor General, individuals who are in violation of the [Reopening Ontario Act](#) can face tickets for set fine amounts determined by the Ontario Court of Justice.

\$750 – Individuals who fail to comply with the restrictions can be issued a minimum fine of \$750.

\$1,000 – Those who obstruct an authority or individual from enforcing or complying with an order can receive a minimum fine of \$1,000.

\$10,000 – Those who host parties or gatherings in violation of the regulations can face a maximum fine of \$10,000 on conviction.

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\$100,000 – The total maximum penalty for an individual is \$100,000 and up to one year in jail.

Corporations

\$10M – For corporations, the fine would be determined upon conviction, Brent Ross, a spokesperson for the Ministry of the Solicitor General, said. This fine can be as high as \$10 million.

As well, he added, according to the legislation, fines can be increased "by an amount equal to the financial benefit that was acquired by or that accrued to the person as a result of the commission of the offence."

Headlines newsletter
