



Posted on Wednesday, January 13, 2021

Stay home | Stay safe | Save lives

Kawartha Lakes – On January 12, 2021, the Province of Ontario declared a **second state of emergency** (<https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/59922/ontario-declares-second-provincial-emergency-to-address-covid-19-crisis-and-save-lives>).

Effective midnight on Wednesday January 13, the provincial **stay-at-home order** will take effect. The only exceptions for leaving home are for essential purposes such as going to the grocery store or pharmacy, accessing health care services, getting outside for exercise or travelling for essential work. This order, along with new and existing public health restrictions are aimed at limiting people's mobility to reduce the number of daily contacts with those outside an immediate household. In addition to limiting outings to essential trips, all businesses must ensure that any employee who can work from home does so.

The provincial government has put in place the following additional public health measures to help stop the spread of COVID-19 by reducing concerning levels of mobility:

- Outdoor organized public gatherings and social gatherings are further restricted from ten down to a limit of **five** people with limited exceptions. This is consistent with the rules during the lockdown during the first wave of COVID-19 in spring 2020 and will allow individuals and families to enjoy time outdoors safely.
- Individuals are required to wear a mask or face covering in the indoor areas of businesses or organizations that are open. Wearing a mask or face covering is now recommended **outdoors** when you can't physically distance more than two metres.
- All non-essential retail stores, including hardware stores, alcohol retailers and those offering curbside pickup or delivery, **must open no earlier than 7am and close no later than 8pm**. The restricted hours of operation do not apply to stores that primarily sell food, pharmacies, gas