



Update – May 8, 2020

1) No Departmental changes.

- Reminder the Top 5 will be a weekly update on Fridays.
- Urgent news will be communicated as it arises.

2) Cleaning and disinfecting safety

- As people have been following recommendations to clean and sanitize hard surfaces to help stop the spread of COVID there has been an increase in accidental poisonings due to mixing of cleaning solutions. This increase is due to factors such as:
 - More cleaning products in homes as people stock up in isolation.
 - More exposure to those products as people clean and disinfect their homes more often.
 - More time spent at home — including for children.
- The most common mistake people make is mixing bleach with vinegar or with a cleaning product that has ammonia in it, producing potentially deadly gases. Some wipes used to clean surfaces have ammonia in them so people should read labels carefully.
- To reduce the risk when cleaning hard surfaces, you should take cleaning advice from reputable sources, such as [Health Canada's webpage](#) on how to create your own disinfectant using bleach.

3) Ontario Further Eases Restrictions on Retail Stores & Essential Construction

Retailers to follow health and safety guidelines

- The Ontario government is allowing all retail stores with a street entrance to provide curbside pickup and delivery, as well as in-store payment and purchases at garden centres, nurseries, hardware stores and safety supply stores. The business owners should review the health and safety guidelines developed by the province and its health and safety association partners.
- As early as Friday, May 8 at 12:01 a.m., garden centres and nurseries are able to open for in-store payment and purchases, operating under the same guidelines as grocery stores and pharmacies. Hardware stores and safety supply stores will be permitted to open for in-store payment and purchases as soon as 12:01 a.m. on Saturday, May 9. On Monday, May 11 at 12:01 a.m., retail stores with a street entrance can begin offering curbside pickup and delivery, in accordance with the Ministry of Health's Guidance Document for Essential Workplaces and occupational health and safety requirements.

To read the full media release, visit: [Further easing of restrictions](#)

4) Ontario extends Emergency Orders and Electricity Rate Relief

- The Ontario government is extending emergency electricity rate relief to families, farms and small businesses until May 31, 2020 during the COVID-19 outbreak. Customers who pay time-of-use electricity rates will continue to be billed at the lowest price, known as the off-peak price, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. This electricity rate relief, initially provided for a 45-day period starting on March 24, 2020, has been extended by an emergency order under the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act. The rate relief is intended to be in place for an additional 24 days.
- On the advice of the Chief Medical Officer of Health, the Ontario government is also extending all emergency orders that have been put in place to-date under s.7.0.2 (4) of the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act until May 19, 2020.

For a full list of all the emergency orders, please visit: [Emergency Orders & Electricity Rate Relief Extended](#)



5) Province Significantly Increases Daily Lab Testing

- Ontario has significantly increased testing and contact tracing capacity, allowing health experts to identify cases of COVID-19 and support efforts to stop the spread of the virus in the community, long-term care homes, and other congregate settings. In partnership with Ontario Health, Public Health Ontario, local public health units, and hospital and community laboratories, the Ontario government has developed an integrated laboratory system which has established the province as a national leader in daily testing volumes per capita.
- To date, Ontario has conducted over 342,000 tests, with testing results being made available to patients through the user-friendly online portal. The portal was developed to help ease pressure on frontline workers, allowing them to focus their efforts on combating COVID-19.
- Ontario has a provincewide network of 23 laboratory sites working in coordination to further increase capacity and test turn-around times for COVID-19 testing.
- Ontario is now a leader in Canada in daily testing volumes per capita. Recent expansion of testing has the province's per capita testing ahead of Alberta, British Columbia and Quebec.

To read the full media release, visit: [Daily Lab Testing significantly increased](#)

If you think you may have COVID-19 symptoms or have been in close contact with someone who has it, first self-isolate and then use [Ontario's Self-Assessment Tool](#) to see if you need to seek further care.

Remember to pre-screen daily when entering any Town building.

Any changes within a department will now be provided to Randy to be included in an update and copied to HR@midland.ca for tracking.