Safety Notice

October 5, 2020

COVID-19 Update:

New requirements to limit spread of COVID-19 resurgence

On Friday, October 2, 2020, the Province implemented a number of new requirements aimed at limiting the spread of COVID-19. These include:

- Putting a pause on social circles, asking people across the entire Province to now only come in close contact with those inside their household as COVID-19 cases have spiked to unprecedented levels.
- Limiting capacity to 100 in restaurants, bars and nightclubs in Ottawa and Peel Region. Toronto Public Health already limited capacity to 75 in Toronto establishments in September.
- Allowing a maximum of six people per table at restaurants in the three hotspots (Peel, Toronto and Ottawa) and collecting each customer's contact information for contact tracing.
- Limiting group exercise classes at gyms and fitness centres in the three hotspots (Peel, Toronto and Ottawa) to 10 people and the facility capacity to 50 people.
- Limiting people to six per table at banquet halls and event spaces located in the three hotspots and having no more than 50 people in the facility at a time.
- Pausing any further reopening in Ontario for the next 28 days.
- The government implementing a province-wide mandatory mask order for indoor public settings, including businesses, facilities and workplaces.
- Transitioning to appointment-based testing at Ontario assessment centres beginning Tuesday, October 6, 2020.

Last Friday, Toronto's Medical Officer of Health wrote a letter to the Chief Medical Officer of Health for Ontario recommending that he consider immediately implementing the following temporary public health measures in Toronto for a period of approximately one month:

- Restricting individuals from dining indoors.
- Recommending that individuals only leave their homes for essential activities, such as work, education, fitness, healthcare appointments, and to purchase food, with flexibility for up to two individuals from outside their household to provide social support if an individual lives alone.
- Recommending that all indoor group classes in gyms be discontinued.
- Recommending that large venues be required to submit a plan to Toronto Public Health demonstrating how they will comply with public health measures, such as seating that ensures physical distancing and a method by which they will collect individual contact information.

In addition, TPH announced that it was suspending some contact tracing efforts due to the high level of COVID-19 cases in Toronto. They want to re-prioritize case and contact management to focus on the highest-risk scenarios. The TTC has confirmed that this suspension would include the contact tracing TPH does with the TTC.

Finally, this upcoming weekend is Thanksgiving. Normally, this would be a time to gather with friends and family to spend time together and to share a meal. Given the COVID-19 resurgence and recent spikes in case numbers, public health authorities are pleading with everyone to **gather with people in their immediate households only** this weekend. Remember, the **decisions you make** today can alter the trajectory of this virus in our communities.

If you have any questions, please speak with your manager or supervisor.

Thank you for your ongoing efforts in helping to stop the spread of COVID-19.

Betty Hasserjian
Chief Safety Officer (Acting)

Where do I get reliable information?

TTC

COVID-19.Info@ttc.ca
ttc.ca/EmployeeHealth

Occupational Hygiene and Environment section
416-393-3320

Toronto Public Health
Toronto.ca/health

Health Canada
Canada.ca/health

Should you travel?

Public Health Agency of Canada
travel.gc.ca

The Government of Canada advises that you avoid all nonessential travel outside of Canada.

With the recent decision by TPH to suspend some contact tracing efforts, what is the TTC doing to ensure that contact tracing efforts continue for its employees who test positive for COVID-19?

- Back in April 2020, the TTC developed the *Corporate Procedure – Positive COVID-19 Result Process* that outlines the response to a positive COVID-19 result and the steps to take within the first 24 hours after notification. Under Section 4.4 Contact Tracing, the Safety and Environment Department will report the incident to Toronto Public Health and request a review to be completed.
- Given this new directive, the TTC will continue to follow the existing process for employees who test positive for COVID-19, but the reports will be sent to the Chief Safety Officer and/or the Manager of Occupational Hygiene and Environment in the Safety and Environment Department for review to determine whether any close contacts have been identified that will require self-isolation. This review will no longer be completed by TPH and will be completed by the Safety and Environment Department.
- Cases that are complex in nature and may result in a workplace outbreak will still be referred to TPH for their guidance and direction.

The Ontario government recently implemented a province-wide mandatory mask order for indoor public settings, including businesses, facilities and workplaces. This order requires masks to be mandatory throughout the Province in all indoor public areas, on transit, and in workplaces where physical distancing isn't possible. TTC's indoor and outdoor mask/face covering policies are more stringent. Will this result in any changes to TTC's face covering or mask policy?

No, as previously indicated the Safety and Environment Department has been conducting physical distancing audits at many work locations over the last couple of months and have observed employees gathering outside in larger groups and not respecting physical distancing guidelines. The health and safety of TTC employees is of paramount importance and we need to do everything we can to ensure it remains that way.