

COVID-19: Provincial Actions Summary

Highlights of additional provincial measures

ATLANTIC CANADA

Newfoundland and Labrador

- Residents can now visit their doctor via telephone or real-time video conferencing. There will be no cost to patients for virtual medical services that are insured by the province's [Medical Care Plan](#).
- The government announced a six-month interest-free moratorium on provincial student loan repayments until September 30.

Prince Edward Island

- The government announced new educational and financial supports for permanent residents.
- Notably, the [Emergency Relief Worker Assistance Program](#) benefit for workers who have experienced a significant drop in their working hours has been increased from \$200 to \$250 per week, to offset payroll reductions.
- To avoid stockpiling, pharmacies will now be limiting all prescription refills to a maximum of 30 days. [Pharmacare](#) clients will have no additional financial burden due to the more frequent refills.

Nova Scotia

- Nova Scotia's government declared a state of emergency, closed provincial parks and restricted gatherings of more than five people.
- The [Nova Scotia Health Authority](#) has taken steps to ensure the health system is ready to respond to COVID-19, including:
 - Providing options for virtual care and telehealth care so doctors and other health-care providers can reduce face-to-face visits.
 - Making changes to non-essential services so staff are available to focus on COVID-19 and essential services, such as cancer care.
- Effective March 21, dentists can no longer practice dentistry in their offices with the exception of emergency procedures.

New Brunswick

- Effective immediately, and for the duration of the emergency, patients with drug coverage under the [province's public drug plans](#) will only be responsible for the initial co-payment on a prescription fill or refill.
- The government announced additional financial assistance measures, including student loan relief and a three-month waiver of WorkSafeNB premiums.
- Effective March 23, residents can call a government phone line if they have concerns about people not complying with the state of emergency orders.



WESTERN CANADA

British Columbia

- The chief medical officer has ordered personal service establishments to close until further notice.
- The government announced additional measures to protect vulnerable people, including a ban on evictions for non-payment of rent in BC Housing-funded buildings.

Alberta

- Alberta will roll out a plan in the next week to allow public health inspectors to monitor large groups and businesses to deal with people who may not be following the recommendations from public health.
- Alberta is implementing a series of energy sector initiatives to provide short and long-term financial relief to the oil and gas industry.
- Premier Kenney announced the formation of an economic advisory panel to look at the longer term economic recovery.
- Select licensed child-care centres will begin reopening to provide child-care for core service workers.

Saskatchewan

- Saskatchewan Premier Moe signed an emergency order authorizing police to enforce self-isolation measures for those returning from abroad.
- The government announced a number financial support measures, including a 3-month suspension of PST payments for businesses, student loan relief, and a six-month waiver of interest on late bill payments to crown utilities. New measures include the following:
 - The *Self-Isolation Support Program* will provide \$450 per week for a maximum of two weeks to residents forced to self-isolate.
 - A new *unpaid public health emergency leave*, and the removal of the 13-week employment requirement to access sick leave and requirement for a doctor's note to access sick leave.
- Child care facilities in schools will be repurposed to provide child care services to support staff in health care and other employees who are delivering services related to the pandemic response.

Manitoba

- Tax filing deadlines have been extended by up to two additional months for small and medium-sized businesses.

NORTHERN CANADA

Northwest Territories

- Residents returning to the territory will be required to self-isolate in Yellowknife, Fort Smith, Hay River, or Inuvik.
- Disobeying the order is punishable by a fine of up to \$10,000 and six months in jail.

Yukon

- Effective March 23, all scheduled non-urgent surgeries will be suspended.



CENTRAL CANADA

Ontario

- The government has launched *Ontario Together*, a new website that will help businesses and their employees work with the province to meet the challenges of COVID-19. The government is seeking solutions for the following:
 - Virtual mental health services for people who are vulnerable or living in remote communities. This follows the March 14 decision to temporarily cover under OHIP the provision of assessments of or counselling by telephone or video, or advice and information to patient representatives by telephone or video.
 - Financial planning and advising for small businesses that can be delivered online at low cost, including advice about relief programs and how to apply.
- The province announced a temporary order that gives hospitals the ability to cancel and postpone services to free up space and staff.
- Select licensed child care centres will reopen to support health care and frontline workers.
- The Ontario Provincial Police issued a notice warning people that they could face fines of \$750 if they defy the call to close certain businesses and institutions and/or limit gatherings to 50 people or less. Corporations defying orders can face a fine of \$500,000.

Québec

- The government will provide a \$7 million grant to Quebec biopharmaceutical company Medicago to accelerate the development of a vaccine against COVID-19.
 - Medicago announced it had successfully produced a vaccine candidate on March 12. The grant will allow the company to conduct pre-clinical studies. The clinical studies, which include testing on patients, are set to begin this summer.
- Hydro-Québec will cease cutting off power to residents and businesses unable to pay their electricity bills.
- Residents who do not respect self-isolation will face fines and arrests.



If you have questions specific to your business, or would like additional information, please reach out to your Mitchell & Abbott Advisor.

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