

**Ministry of Municipal
Affairs and Housing**

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November 24, 2020

MEMORANDUM TO: Municipal Chief Administrative Officers and Clerks

SUBJECT: Enforcement of Orders under the *Reopening Ontario Act, 2020*

I want to thank you again for your sustained efforts in limiting the spread of infection and managing the impact of the pandemic on your communities.

As you are aware, municipal by-law officers are designated to enforce provincial orders under the Reopening Ontario (A Flexible Response to COVID-19) Act, 2020 (ROA). Given the recent rise in COVID-19 cases, the government recently announced new provincial restrictions.

Based on the latest data, communities that fall under the jurisdiction of Peel Public Health and Toronto Public Health have moved to Lockdown effective Monday, November 23, 2020 at 12:01 a.m. Based on the latest data, other communities falling under the jurisdictions of other public health units have also moved from their current level in the framework to more restrictive levels effective Monday, November 23, 2020 at 12:01 a.m. Municipalities, residents and businesses can find out what level and which regional public measures are in place for their area at <https://www.ontario.ca/page/covid-19-response-framework-keeping-ontario-safe-and-open>.

Municipalities and local public health units may have additional restrictions or targeted requirements, on top of any applicable provincial public health measures. To further support the efforts of public health units, the province is making additional enforcement mechanisms available to local medical officers of health who have applied additional measures based on their local conditions and needs. The government is amending Ontario Regulation 950 under the *Provincial Offences Act*, allowing for a ticket to be issued for any contravention of a COVID-19 specific communicable disease class order issued by a medical officer of health. The government will also work with the Chief Justice of Ontario to create an order establishing a set fine to be attached to any ticket issued for violating a section 22 order relating to COVID-19 made by a local medical officer of health under the *Health Protection and Promotion Act*.

These actions are being taken to help stop the spread of COVID-19, while prioritizing the continued opening of schools, child care centres and other key services to the fullest extent possible. To help support municipal enforcement activities, I am attaching information the Ministry of the Solicitor General has shared with Chiefs of Police regarding additional amendments to orders made under the ROA.

Many of Ontario's municipalities have shown leadership and actively engaged in enforcement and compliance, including enforcement of any local by-laws they may have enacted. To ensure we are achieving greater successes given the local need, and as I mentioned in my correspondence to you on Monday, November 16, 2020, you may wish to coordinate enforcement activities with provincial enforcement officers and public health officers. To identify the lead contact for any potential planned compliance activity in your community, please email Natasha Bartlett at natasha.bartlett@ontario.ca.

To help support enforcement personnel, staff at the Ministry of the Solicitor General continue to respond to inquiries via EssentialWorkplacesSupport.SolGen@ontario.ca. Through this confidential channel, assistance is available to enforcement personnel seven days a week.

I would also encourage you again to support the Ministry of the Solicitor General's efforts to collect enforcement data on a weekly basis to help monitor and measure the impact of accelerated enforcement and compliance activities province-wide. You can find out more on how you may contribute to the Ministry of Solicitor General's weekly data collection efforts by contacting Jeanette Gorzkowski or Agata Falkowski at Jeanette.Gorzowski@ontario.ca or Agata.Falkowski@ontario.ca respectively.

The Ontario government, in consultation with the Chief Medical Officer of Health, has also extended all orders currently in force under the *Reopening Ontario (A Flexible Response to COVID-19) Act, 2020* (ROA) until December 21, 2020. These can be found online on the Government of Ontario's website at <https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/20r17>.

Thank you, once again, for your continued efforts to help keep our communities safe and healthy.

Sincerely,

Kate Manson-Smith
Deputy Minister, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

Enclosure: Correspondence from the Ministry of the Solicitor General to all Chiefs of Police – English version. If a French version is required, please contact Richard.Stubbings@ontario.ca.