

Government of Ontario Response

March 17, 2020

Premier Doug Ford announces [Declaration of Emergency](#).

March 16, 2020

The Ontario Government will introduce legislation that includes protected leave and removes the requirement for employees to obtain sick notes prior to quarantine or taking time off for self-isolation.

Previously

Schools Closed: The Minister of Education issued a [Ministerial Order](#) to close all publicly funded schools in Ontario for two weeks following March break. Ontario schools are scheduled to remain closed through to April 5, 2020.

Enhanced Public Health Measures: The Chief Medical Officer of Health issued a [memo](#) last week detailing Enhanced Public Health measures for COVID-19. Similar to recent guidance for long-term care and retirement homes, all licensed child-care centres are asked to actively screen children, parents, staff and visitors for any symptoms and travel history that may be related to COVID-19 based on the ministry's [case definition](#). The government has also recommended the immediate suspension of all large events and public gatherings of over 250 people. In addition, the Chief Medical Officer of Health issued a [memo](#) to Long-Term Care Homes, Retirement Homes, Supportive Housing, Hospices and other congregate care settings on allowing only essential visitors.

Legislators at Queen's Park will resume for an emergency session on March 16. Last week, they unanimously passed a motion that would allow them to avoid returning to the legislature if the COVID-19 outbreak worsens.

The March 25 provincial budget will be reduced to a fiscal update with the full budget to be released at a later date.