

Tuesday, March 24, 2020

York Region remains committed to providing residents and businesses with trusted, dependable and timely updates about COVID-19. York Region Public Health encourages the region's employers to promote the following as our communities work through the challenges presented by COVID-19. Visit [York.ca/covid19](https://york.ca/covid19) for current information and resources, including signage and posters you can use in your organization.

## Practice social distancing, respiratory etiquette, hand hygiene and routine cleaning

- Encourage employees to practice [social distancing](#) by:
  - Working from home where possible
  - Maintaining at least 2 metres (6 feet) space between you and others (outside of your immediate family)
  - Avoiding non-essential trips in the community
  - Cancelling gatherings
  - Keeping kids away from group settings, including play dates
  - Continuing with grocery shopping and essential medical appointments
  - Going outside for a walk, bike ride and play, while maintaining 2 metre space between you and others
- Remind employees to:
  - [Wash hands](#) often with soap and water or alcohol-based hand sanitizer
  - Sneeze and cough into sleeve
  - Avoid touching eyes, nose or mouth
  - Increase cleaning and disinfection of high-touch surfaces like desks and screens, and keyboards using regular household cleaners
- If staff develop acute respiratory illness symptoms (i.e. new or worsening cough or difficulty breathing) and fever upon arrival to work or become sick during the day at work they should:
  - Immediately ask staff to return home and self-isolate
  - Use the Ministry of Health's [self-assessment](#) to determine if you need to seek care. If you're having difficulty breathing or experiencing other severe symptoms, call 911.
- Provide employees with tissues, no touch-garbage and recycling receptacles, adequate soap and hand sanitizer.

- Perform routine environmental cleaning and disinfection; especially on frequently touched surfaces as they are most likely to become contaminated (doorknobs, elevator buttons, light switches, toilet handles, counters, hand rails, touch screen surfaces and keypads). Commonly used cleaners and disinfectants are effective against COVID-19.

## **Business Closures**

As a reminder, on March 17, 2020 the Provincial Government has enacted the Declaration of Emergency to protect the public from COVID-19. In addition, on March 23, 2020, the Provincial Government has ordered the mandatory closure of all [non-essential workplaces](#) as of Tuesday March 24, 2020 at 11:59 p.m. This closure will be in effect for 14 days with the possibility of extension as the situation evolves.

**[York.ca/covid19](http://York.ca/covid19)**