

April 28, 2020

## (Updated) Covid-19 and Construction Sites: Scan of jurisdictions outside of Ontario

This document also includes information related to wearing face mask policies in other countries.

“When and how to use mask” guideline – WHO

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public/when-and-how-to-use-masks>

Link to International construction latest updates due to COVID-19 (including many countries)

<https://www.worldconstructiontoday.com/news/>

<https://www.khl.com/international-construction/construction-and-covid-19-rolling-news-update/142849.article>

**\*Which countries have made wearing face masks compulsory?**

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/04/countries-wearing-face-masks-compulsory-200423094510867.html>

**\*To read the scan of jurisdictions before April 21, 2020, please [click here](#).**

### QUEBEC (24,982)

Workers in Quebec’s residential construction industry are back on the job after being forced to shut down last month because of the coronavirus pandemic.

As of Monday, labourers and contractors were allowed to return to their residential job sites for the first time the Legault government issued the three-week shutdown of all non-essential services in Quebec on March 24.

<https://globalnews.ca/news/6842329/quebec-residential-construction-back-coronavirus/>

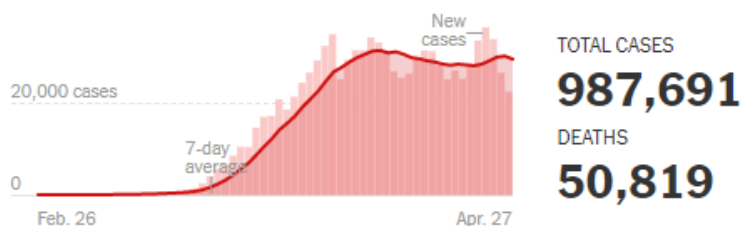
<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/montreal/covid-19-quebec-april-20-1.5538044>

### BRITISH COLUMBIA (1,998)

Guidance to construction sites operating during COVID-19 (<https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020EMBC0002-000542>)

### AMERICA

By The New York Times Updated April 28, 2020, 4:13 A.M. E.T.



(New) Coronavirus outbreak: New York to reopen manufacturing and construction sites first

New York Governor Andrew Cuomo said on Sunday that construction and manufacturing sites with low risk of COVID-19 infection will be able to reopen in the first phase of state reopening. He added that the plan is to leave two weeks between each phase and the other to monitor the effect of gradually reopening businesses.

<https://globalnews.ca/video/6870340/coronavirus-outbreak-new-york-to-reopen-manufacturing-and-construction-sites-first>

Reopening of New York Could Begin Upstate After May 15, Cuomo Says

The governor outlined a plan to restart the economy, beginning with manufacturing and construction, and suggested professional sports could resume without fans.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/26/nyregion/new-york-coronavirus-reopening.html>

Construction employment declined in 20 U.S. states and the District of Columbia (D.C.) in March, aligning with the results of a recent survey by the U.S.-based Associated General Contractors of America that found growing layoffs amid new project cancellations and state funding constraints.

<https://canada.constructconnect.com/dcn/news/economic/2020/04/u-s-construction-job-losses-mount>

U.S. home-building activity collapsed in March as the coronavirus spread, with housing starts tumbling 22.3% from a month ago.

The drop in housing starts was the worst monthly decline since the 1980s, when new home construction plunged 26.42% in March 1984.

<https://www.cnn.com/2020/04/16/us-housing-starts-march-2020.html>

As states and municipalities continue to cope with the spread of COVID-19 and regulate essential and non-essential business, the U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security on April 17 updated federal guidance on essential infrastructure by expanding categories of construction workers that are considered critical.

The latest guidance, termed Version 3.0, now considers as critical workers performing housing and commercial construction related activities, including those supporting government functions in the building and development process such as inspections, permitting and plan review services that enable construction continuity, DHS said.

<https://www.enr.com/articles/49219-us-expands-virus-guidance-on-essential-construction-jobs-and-sectors>

**These are the states that require you to wear a face mask in public: Hawaii, New York, Connecticut, Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island.**

Link: <https://www.click2houston.com/news/local/2020/04/20/these-are-the-states-that-require-you-to-wear-a-face-mask-in-public/>

Anyone outside in public in New York will be required to wear a mask or some kind of face covering under a new executive order from Gov. Andrew Cuomo (D).

Link: <https://thehill.com/policy/healthcare/492967-new-york-to-require-all-people-to-wear-masks-when-in-public>

<https://nymag.com/intelligencer/2020/04/scenes-from-your-pandemic-3.html>

**10 things to know about the coronavirus outbreak in Houston, around Texas and across the United States**

<https://www.click2houston.com/meta/newsletter/2020/04/17/these-are-the-things-you-need-to-know-about-the-coronavirus-today-in-houston-around-texas-and-across-the-world/>

Housing construction is listed as essential activity in California.

L.A. hunkered down. But it hasn't stopped building mansions, stadiums and apartments

Crews wearing protective masks worked on the roof and patio of a sprawling home under construction on the corner. Building permits show it will be about 17,000 square feet and include a sport court, swimming pool and a 1,500-square-foot auxiliary residence. <https://www.latimes.com/business/story/2020-04-24/coronavirus-construction-jobs>

(new) All San Diego County residents will be required to wear face coverings while in public starting May 1, health officials announced Friday. <https://www.nbcsandiego.com/news/local/county-to-require-mask-wearing-for-all-starting-may-1/2312707/>

## **EUROPE**

European countries are diverging on how and when to reopen their shuttered societies, as Germany, the Czech Republic, Norway and others prepared to lift some restrictions on Monday while France and Spain ruled out any relaxation for several weeks.

**\*Please read these articles for European countries status during the pandemic:**

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/apr/12/after-coronavirus-how-will-europe-rebuild>

<https://www.dw.com/en/coronavirus-lifting-lockdowns-european-countries-go-their-own-way/a-53264551-0>

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/apr/19/israel-and-south-korea-to-ease-coronavirus-lockdowns>

<https://www.ctvnews.ca/health/coronavirus/no-fast-way-back-to-normal-how-some-european-lockdowns-are-easing-already-1.4900936>

# Lockdown exit plans

## Lifting some restrictions this week

### Czech Republic

Five-stage plan starts 20 April with open-air markets and workshops and ends on 8 June. Czechs may now also travel abroad providing they undergo two-week quarantine on return

### Germany

Commercial spaces under 800 sq metres can reopen on 20 April as well as car dealerships, bike shops and book stores. Gyms, restaurants, bars and large stores remain closed. Masks are 'urgently' recommended

### Norway

Kindergartens and some health specialists to reopen from 20 April. Partial reopening of high schools and universities, hair, massage and beauty salons from 27 April

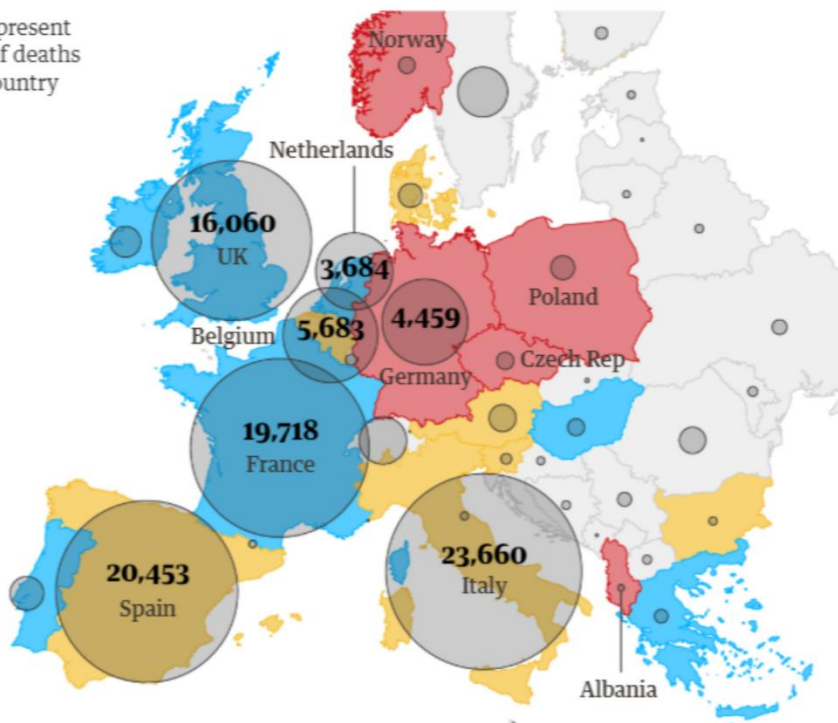
### Poland

Opening parks and forests. Easing limits on number of people in shops

### Albania

Mining and oil industries reopen on 20 April plus some other businesses

Circles represent number of deaths in each country



## Some restrictions already lifted

### Italy

Bookshops, laundries, stationers, children's clothes stores reopened in some regions; forestry workers and IT manufacturers back at work. Full lockdown set to end 4 May

### Spain

Some factory and construction workers back at work but most shops and services remain closed and office staff still working from home. Lockdown set to be extended until 3 May

### Austria

Public parks, small shops, DIY and gardening supply stores reopened with strict distancing rules and masks. Larger shops and hairdressers are due to open from 1 May. Restaurants in mid-May

### Denmark

Daycare centres and primary schools have reopened. Restaurants and cafes closed and gatherings of more than 10 people banned until 10 May. Larger gatherings banned until August

### Slovenia

Holiday home owners are permitted to travel to them. Government has also allowed sporting activities that do not involve close contact, such as cycling or tennis

### Belgium

Garden centres and hardware shops have been permitted to open under the same conditions as essential food stores

### Bulgaria

Parliament voted on 6 April to ease some restrictions and sanctions imposed in March, with farmers' markets allowed to reopen and fines on some activities reduced

**Nothing this week in France, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Netherlands, Portugal, UK**

## ITALY

(New) After nearly two months of being under lockdown, Italy is set to enter "phase two" of its COVID-19 emergency response, beginning May 4. <https://dailyhive.com/mapped/italy-ease-lockdown-after-months>

Italian construction could fall by 22.6% in 2020

Italian construction forecasting body CRESME said that construction activity this year could fall by almost 23%, which is more than double the decline in 2009, the worst year of the financial crisis. That represents a loss of €34 billion in investment in construction for Italy this year.

Italy reveals cautious reopening schedule as deaths and new coronavirus cases drop.

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/world/article-italy-reveals-cautious-reopening-schedule-as-deaths-and-new/>

## UNITED KINGDOM (UK)

**(New) Construction sites to open at night and weekends to kickstart recovery**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2020/04/26/construction-sites-open-night-weekends-kickstart-recovery/>

Construction sites will be allowed to temporarily extend their hours to operate during evenings and at weekends, under a change in the law being planned by ministers.

The Government is preparing to override restrictions preventing builders from carrying out loud work outside the typical working day, or on Sundays.

The move is intended to allow construction firms to "catch up" on work as they begin returning to sites following an initial hiatus during the first weeks of the national lockdown.

It comes as officials draw up modelling to show how further extensions of the current restrictions would be likely to affect GDP, unemployment, and cash flows into businesses.

Call for mask-wearing: <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-52313715>

During the No 10 briefing, Prof Chris Whitty, the UK's chief medical adviser, urged people to continue to attend hospital if they needed to for other emergencies, saying the NHS "is open for business".

It comes after figures showed that visits to accident and emergency units have dropped sharply since the outbreak began.

Prof Whitty also said the government was reviewing whether there were any circumstances in which it should recommend people wear masks in public to prevent the virus spreading, but said "the evidence is weak" and it would be a "very bad thing" if increased demand created shortages for healthcare workers.

But London Mayor Sadiq Khan told the BBC he wanted people in the capital to wear masks or face coverings whenever they leave the house.

"The evidence around the world is that this is effective, and I'm lobbying our government, our advisers to change their advice, and I want us to do that sooner rather than later," he said.

Sites reopen: <https://www.constructionnews.co.uk/contractors/bouygues/bouygues-uk-sites-to-reopen-20-04-2020/>

“The government has made it clear that the construction industry plays a vital role in supporting the UK economy and that, where we are confident we can safely operate our sites, we should do so.

“Safety remains our priority. We have been working in close collaboration with our staff, supply chain and clients to ensure work can continue safely.”

Construction industry urges the government to designate builders as ‘essential workers’

<https://www.insidehousing.co.uk/news/construction-industry-urges-government-to-designate-builders-as-essential-workers-66118>

### **GERMANY (158,758)**

(New) Germans could be fined up to €10,000 as face mask rules brought in.

New rules have come into force legally requiring most people in Germany to wear face masks on public transport, long-distance trains and in shops.

The so-called Maskenpflicht (mask duty) was introduced in 15 of the country’s 16 states on Monday morning. The northern state of Schleswig-Holstein will on Wednesday be the last state to implement the legislation.

Fines of between €25 and €10,000 can be imposed on those who fail to wear a mask, with rates differing widely across the country, and some states, such as Berlin and Brandenburg, insisting they would not levy fines at all, but would rely instead on people showing each other mutual respect by wearing them. Other states said they would allow a few days of grace for people to get used to the new rule.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/apr/27/germans-could-be-fined-up-to-10000-for-not-wearing-face-masks-coronavirus>

**Countries that require citizens to wear masks in public including UK, Czech Republic, France, ...**

### **ASIA**

#### **SINGAPORE (Number of cases: 14,951)**

(New) COVID-19: Construction projects could be delayed months, as contractors fear manpower crunch when clearing backlog <https://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/singapore/covid-19-construction-projects-delay-manpower-crunch-backlog-12673450>

Construction sites in Singapore have been mostly suspended, but "some urgent projects", such as the construction of the third runway at Changi, have been exempted.

Coronavirus: Construction of more foreign worker dorms being speeded up at Changi East, says Khaw

<https://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/manpower/coronavirus-construction-of-more-foreign-worker-dorms-being-speeded-up-at-changi>

COVID-19: Singapore isolates construction workers to battle surging infections

Singapore's construction workers began two weeks at home today as total confirmed infections in the country jumped by more than a thousand to cross the 6,000-mark.

<https://coconuts.co/singapore/news/covid-19-singapore-isolates-construction-workers-to-battle-surg-ing-infections/>

All construction workers holding work permits or S Passes to be placed on compulsory stay-home notices: MOM

<https://www.todayonline.com/singapore/all-construction-workers-holding-work-permits-or-s-passes-be-placed-compulsory-stay-home>

**Asia Minute: Singapore Makes Masks Mandatory** <https://www.hawaiipublicradio.org/post/asia-minute-singapore-makes-masks-mandatory#stream/0>

### **JAPAN (Number of cases: 13,614)**

Major Japanese construction contractors halt work: <https://www.khl.com/international-construction/major-japanese-construction-contractors-halt-work/143502.article>

\*SURVEY: Coronavirus effect on corporate activities in construction industry Japan 2020

According to a survey conducted from March 27 to April 5, more than 38 percent of business enterprises in the Japanese construction industry stated that they already experienced an impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) on their corporate activities. Adding the share of companies which foresaw a possible impact on their business in the near future, approximately 95 percent of the companies considered that they were somewhat affected by the pandemic of the virus.

<https://www.statista.com/statistics/1101247/japan-coronavirus-effect-on-the-construction-industry/>

### **AUSTRALIA (Number of cases: 6,731)**

While travel, tourism and hospitality have fallen victim to the coronavirus pandemic, construction continues as the industry is deemed too important to the economy to be shutdown.

But measures such as social distancing and staggered shifts and break times have increased costs and lowered productivity as companies seek to keep projects on schedule.