

COVID-19 update as of Jan. 6, 2021

Based on questions from members, RESCON has reached out to Toronto Public Health and can clarify the following:

1. Any employer must contact Toronto Public Health when someone on-site tests positive for COVID-19. They have a broad range of powers and builders must reasonably work with Toronto Public Health to promote public safety.
2. A workplace outbreak is defined as 2 confirmed cases of COVID originating from the workplace. That means the case must be contracted from the workplace (think about WSIB reporting requirements).
3. For large workplaces, a positive test case in different areas or departments may or may not trigger outbreak requirements. This will be determined by public health. For example, if you have a positive case with a tile setter on the 4th floor of a high-rise building and a positive case with a formworker on the 40th floor, Toronto Public Health may deem them unrelated and therefore not trigger outbreak requirements.
4. If an outbreak is determined (2 or more cases) public health will work with the employer. Again, they have broad powers and discretion.
5. If an outbreak is determined and there is no privacy risk to workers (not defined – this is at the discretion of public health) the company and location will be added to a public registry.

If you have any questions related to the announcement, the role or powers of public health, or what to do if you have a positive test case, please contact RESCON.