

COVID update as of January 15, 2021

The Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development in concert with the Chief Prevention Officer have released updated health and safety guidelines for the construction industry. See the link [here](#) for the updated guidance. They have also provided separate guidance for meal and break periods. That guidance can be found [here](#).

Workers in the province have the ability to make a complaint and refuse work if they feel their workplace is unsafe. Government will respond to complaints and may involve either the Ministry of Labour or the local Public Health authority if and when they receive a complaint.

Working from Home

To reiterate what was shared in previous member updates, the government is strongly advising the those who can work from home, do so. However, it is ultimately up to the employer to make this decision. People travelling to work are also not required to have proof from their employer that they are travelling for work purposes (in the event they are stopped or questioned by police).

Municipal Update – Building Permits and Inspections

In light of the new provincial lockdown measures which were announced earlier this week and came into effect on Jan. 14, certain construction activities have been limited as already outlined in past member updates (**RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION REMAINS OPEN**). See [ONTARIO REGULATION 10/21](#) for further details. However, these new measures should not impose restrictions on building department related municipal services, namely the review and issuance of building permits as well as inspection services. While municipal staff are largely working remotely, services are still being provided and regulated timelines are still in effect. If you experience issues with a municipality, please call or contact RESCON.

Enforcement

Police across Ontario have the ability to issue tickets to those who are not complying with orders under the Reopening Ontario Act and the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act. This includes corporations/businesses and individual workers. Police officers do not, however, have the power to enter homes or stop vehicles solely to check if lockdown measures are being followed or if you are out for essential purposes. In the event that an individual or business is non-complaint with the orders, police can use their discretion to determine whether to issue a fine or a warning.

COVID-19 Webinar: Thursday, Jan. 28, 1-3 pm

On Thursday, Jan. 28 in the afternoon, RESCON is hosting an industry webinar on the new regulations and Stay-at-Home order. The webinar will include remarks and commentary from both Labour, Training and Skills Development Minister Monte McNaughton and Chief Prevention Officer Ron Kelusky. For more info and to register, click [here](#).

As always, please contact RESCON staff for questions.