



# COVID-19

**MAY 21, 2020**

## **CPA Virtual Annual General Meeting – June 10, 2020**

Due to COVID-19, the **Canadian Propane Association is holding a virtual AGM on June 10 at 1:15pm EST**. More details will be emailed shortly.

### **Federal**

#### **ESSENTIAL SERVICES**

#### **Gathering limitations across the provinces**

All provinces across Canada have set up restrictions limiting the size of groups for indoor and outdoor public and private gatherings. In all cases, a distance of two metres must be maintained at any type of gathering. In most provinces, face masks are recommended where social distancing cannot be maintained.

It should be noted that some of these measures may not reflect specific guidelines related to training in classrooms. The CPA is continuing to look into more specific information as it relates to classroom training for our industry.

[BC](#)  
Indoor and outdoor – 6 people

[Alberta](#)  
Indoor – less than 15  
Outdoor – less than 50

[Saskatchewan](#)  
Indoor and outdoor – 10

[Manitoba](#)

[Newfoundland & Labrador](#)  
Gatherings – 10 people  
Gatherings apply to essential or official events/ceremonies and include essential workplace activities such as certification or training

[New Brunswick](#)  
Indoor and Outdoor – 10

Indoor – 25  
Outdoor – 50

#### [Ontario](#)

Social gatherings – 5

#### [Québec](#)

Outdoor – 10

The [government is expected to announce](#) moving into its next phase on Friday, which will expand to gatherings of 50 or fewer.

#### [Prince Edward Island](#)

Indoor – Members of the same household may gather with up to 5 other individuals

Outdoor – Members of the same household may gather with up to 10 other individuals

#### [Nova Scotia](#)

Indoor and outdoor – 5 people, [unless your group has an exemption](#).

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## Canada will keep border closed to non-essential travel until June 21

[The federal government has extended travel restrictions](#) at all Canadian international border crossings until June 21, 2020. This restriction may be prolonged as necessary for public health reasons.

With the travel restrictions still in place, foreign nationals, including U.S. citizens, will not be allowed to enter Canada if they attempt to come for any of the following examples of discretionary (non-essential) travel:

- opening or checking on a cottage or seasonal home;
- sightseeing;
- boating across the border;
- fishing or hunting;
- visiting family, friends, partners or a girlfriend, boyfriend or fiancé(e);
- attending a party or celebration;
- driving in transit for the purpose of taking a shortcut through Canada to get to a U.S. destination faster; and,
- picking up a pet.

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## Personal protective equipment update

Over the past few weeks, Canada has doubled its inventory of surgical masks and face shields.

The Prime Minister said in his [March 19 remarks](#) that this week, and in the weeks to come, hundreds of thousands of hospital gowns, glasses, face shields, and swabs will be delivered to the

provinces and territories. Canada has also received an order of ZOLL ventilators from the United States.

The country is increasing its capacity to produce Canadian-made equipment. The government now has 15 contracts across the country to manufacture hospital gowns and it will start receiving gowns from Montréal-based Samuelsohn by the end of the month.

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#### FINANCIAL AID

### Expanded eligibility for the Canada Emergency Business Account

[The federal government announced an expansion to the eligibility criteria for the Canada Emergency Business Account](#) (CEBA) to include many owner-operated small businesses.

The changes to the CEBA will allow more Canadian small businesses to access interest free loans that will help cover operating costs during a period when revenues have been reduced, due to the pandemic.

The program will now be available to a greater number of businesses that are sole proprietors receiving income directly from their businesses, businesses that rely on contractors, and family-owned corporations that pay employees through dividends rather than payroll.

To qualify under the expanded eligibility criteria, applicants with payroll lower than \$20,000 would need:

- a business operating account at a participating financial institution.
- a Canada Revenue Agency business number, and to have filed a 2018 or 2019 tax return.
- eligible non-deferrable expenses between \$40,000 and \$1.5 million. Eligible non-deferrable expenses could include costs such as rent, property taxes, utilities, and insurance.

Expenses will be subject to verification and audit by the Government of Canada. Funding will be delivered in partnership with financial institutions. More details, including the launch date for applications under the new criteria, will follow in the days to come. To date, over 600,000 small businesses have accessed the CEBA, and the government will work on potential solutions to help business owners and entrepreneurs who operate through their personal bank account, as opposed to a business account, or have yet to file a tax return, such as newly created businesses.

**Alberta**

ESSENTIAL SERVICES

## Reopening requirements published for Alberta businesses; written plans no longer required

Alberta entered stage 1 of its relaunch strategy, entitled “[Opening Soon](#)” as planned on May 14, 2020. The specific details regarding the gradual reopening of certain classes of business are outlined in two Chief Medical Officer of Health (“CMOH”) orders. One order applies to the cities of Calgary and Brooks ([CMOH Order 19-2020](#)), where reopening is being delayed slightly as local officials deal with a relatively large number of confirmed coronavirus infections in each case. The second order applies to the rest of Alberta ([CMOH Order 18-2020](#)).

### Many businesses can reopen

The CMOH orders provide a pathway for many Alberta businesses to open either immediately or over the coming weeks, with a relatively short list of business categories that must remain closed:

- Personal service businesses (other than hairstyling and barber services);
- Wellness service businesses;
- Non-essential health services (unless provided by a regulated member of a college);
- Businesses that offer or provide access to a recreational or entertainment facility (such as gyms, arenas, community centres, libraries, theatres, amusement parks, nightclubs, banquet halls, etc.);
- Festival and event businesses; and
- Schools (K-12).

In Calgary and Brooks, the plan is to proceed in stages, as follows:

- **May 14:** Retail businesses, day-cares, museums and art galleries;
- **May 25:** Hair salons, barber shops, restaurants, bars and pubs;
- **June 1:** Same as the rest of Alberta: all businesses except those in the categories noted above.

### Reopening requirements

Businesses that are eligible to reopen must comply with the guidelines set out in the CMOH orders.

### Public written re-opening plans no longer required

Initially, the CMOH orders required businesses to complete and post a written plan setting out how the business would meet the above noted requirements. However, subsequent CMOH orders repealed this requirement ([CMOH Order 21-2020](#) and [CMOH Order 22-2020](#)). Accordingly, a written re-opening plan is now voluntary for all businesses that are re-opening under stage 1 of the relaunch strategy or which have remained open since before stage 1 commenced.

### Going forward

Guidance regarding reopening requirements continues to develop. However, [Alberta Biz Connect](#) provides guidance and operational planning documents for specific sectors, such as industrial work camps, retail and restaurants.

## Ontario

### ESSENTIAL SERVICES

#### Ontario extends emergency orders – Some outdoor recreational amenities reopening with restrictions

[The Ontario government has extended all emergency orders](#) currently in force until May 29, 2020. That includes the closure of bars and restaurants except for takeout and delivery only, restrictions on social gatherings of more than five people, and staff redeployment rules for long-term care homes and congregate settings like retirement homes and women's shelters. The government is also allowing drive-in religious gatherings.

The province officially entered the first stage of its *Framework for Reopening the Province*. As part of this initial stage, the government is permitting the reopening of some outdoor recreational amenities, including outdoor sports facilities and multi-use fields, off-leash dog areas, and outdoor picnic sites, benches and shelters in parks and recreational areas, effective as of Tuesday, May 19, 2020.

Outdoor playgrounds, play structures and equipment, fitness equipment, public swimming pools, splash pads and similar outdoor water facilities will remain closed until later stages of the province's reopening plan.

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#### Schools, licensed childcare centres and EarlyON programs will remain closed

[The Ontario government announced](#) that it is keeping schools closed for the rest of this school year. The government is planning for the reopening of schools for the 2020-21 school year, the gradual reopening of childcare, and the opening of summer day camps subject to the continuing progress in trends of key public health indicators.

Private schools, licensed childcare centres and EarlyON programs will also remain closed for the safety and protection of children, families and staff through Stage 1 of the *Framework for Reopening the Province*. [Emergency childcare](#) will continue to operate and provide support for health care and other frontline workers. A gradual reopening of childcare is expected to begin when the province is ready to transition to Stage 2 based on public health criteria, which will include robust safety protocols for the safety of Ontario's youngest learners and their staff.

Access to digital learning resources, supports for special education needs and mental health, as well as Internet connectivity and access to devices have all been identified by school boards and other stakeholders as urgent needs during the current school closure period. These organizations and businesses were identified through a call for proposals on the [Ontario Together](#) website between March 31, 2020 and April 21, 2020.

Ontario is helping parents pay for the extra costs associated with school and child care closures during the COVID-19 outbreak through the Support for Families initiative, a one-time payment of \$200 per child up to 12 years of age, and \$250 for those with special needs, including children enrolled in private schools. To date, the province has supported approximately 1.23 million children and youth in Ontario.

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### **Face coverings recommended when physical distancing is a challenge**

As Ontario gradually reopens the province, [the government is recommending that individuals wear a face covering](#) where physical distancing is not possible, such as on public transit or in a small grocery store or pharmacy. In order to assist people and reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19, the Ministry of Health released the following face covering recommendations:

- Wear your face covering safely and snugly to cover your nose and mouth, without any gaps. Ensure your face covering is made of at least two layers of tightly woven material and can be cleaned multiple times without losing its shape;
- Medical masks, such as surgical and N95 masks, should be reserved for use by health care workers, those providing direct care, first responders and individuals who are ill and must leave their home for essential reasons such as seeking medical care, picking up medication or groceries;
- Face coverings should not be placed on or used by children under the age of two; anyone who has trouble breathing; and anyone who is unable to remove it without assistance.

To assist provincial transit agencies in protecting transit staff and riders in this new environment, the Ministry of Health is also recommending the following measures be put in place:

- Physical distancing of at least two metres by admitting fewer passengers and using physical markers between seats;
- The use of face coverings, particularly when physical distancing is not feasible;
- Ensuring the availability of alcohol-based hand rub upon entering and exiting the vehicle;
- Implementing engineering controls like plexiglass windows between drivers and passengers; and
- Enhanced cleaning, particularly of high-touch surfaces.

### **Amendments to 2019 greenhouse gas emissions reporting requirements in response to the COVID-19 outbreak**

[The Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks announced administrative amendments to O. Reg 390/18](#) in response to the challenges industry is facing during the COVID-19 outbreak,

such as staffing shortages. The changes provide temporary relief by allowing for extensions to the 2019 greenhouse gas emissions reporting and verification deadlines.

On April 23, 2020, Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) had announced it will extend the facility greenhouse gas emissions reporting deadline from June 1 to July 31, 2020.

To align with the federal government's extension and maintain reporting harmonization, Ontario has made amendments to Ontario's greenhouse gas emissions: quantification, reporting and verification regulation, *O. Reg. 390/18* in response to the COVID-19 outbreak.

These include:

- providing authority to the director to extend the June 1 reporting deadline and the September 1 verification deadline in specific circumstances, including:
- emergency situations (such as the COVID-19 outbreak)
- technical issues with the reporting platform
- corresponding changes to relevant federal GHG reporting deadlines
- waiving or delaying the requirement for site visits by third-party verifiers for 2019 in certain circumstances
- delaying the requirement for select facilities to change third-party verifiers specifically for the 2019 reporting year

These amendments allow the director to provide temporary relief for large emitters by extending administrative greenhouse gas emissions reporting and verification requirements without compromising our strong protections for the environment and human health and harmonizes with the federal government.

The government understands that an on-site visit is often part of the verification process and that many businesses are not allowing external visitors on-site or the sites are closed due to physical distancing measures being taken to limit the spread of COVID-19. As a result, they have temporarily removed or delayed site visit requirements in certain circumstances which will help ensure worker safety and physical distancing rules.

## Québec

### ESSENTIAL SERVICES

#### Reopening of economic activities

[The government announced the gradual reopening of various sectors and businesses.](#) Starting from May 25, retail stores in the Communauté métropolitaine de Montréal with direct exterior access that customers usually use can resume their activities. Businesses in the stores' supply chains can resume their operations on the same date.

Starting on May 25, manufacturing companies throughout Québec will be authorized to resume

their operations with no restriction on the number of employees present to ensure such operations.

All employees who can engage in teleworking must continue to do so.

Manufacturing companies already in operation to produce [priority services and activities](#) or inputs or raw materials required by priority services and activities with a number of employees beyond the limit adopted starting from May 11 can continue at the same pace until May 25.

To properly equip workplaces to establish preventive measures and answer employers' and workers' questions, please consult the following tools:

- [CNESST – Tool to help you](#)
- [Questions and answers pertaining to employers and workers](#)
- [Questions and answers concerning stores, public spaces and services](#)

The businesses that will be added during subsequent phases will be announced in the coming weeks.

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## Resumption of outdoor sports and leisure activities

On May 13, the government announced a plan to gradually resume certain outdoor sports and leisure activities, provided that the guidelines issued by the public health authorities, especially physical distancing rules, are followed.

This first resumption phase applies throughout Québec.

To view the list of activities permitted, visit the [Resumption of sports and leisure activities](#) page.

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## Regions to reopen

The government announced a plan to gradually reopen the following regions spread over several weeks.

Since May 4, 2020, access is allowed to the regions of:

- the Antoine-Labelle, Argenteuil, Pays-d'en-Haut and Laurentides regional county municipalities for the Laurentides health region;
- the territories of the Outremont, Joliette, Matawinie and Montcalm regional county municipalities for the Lanaudière health region;
- the territories of the Bellechasse, L'Islet and Montmagny regional county municipalities for the Chaudière-Appalaches health region;

- Rouyn-Noranda for the Abitibi-Témiscamingue health region.

Since May 11, 2020, access is allowed to the:

- Outaouais health region, except for trips from Ottawa to Gatineau;
- the Saguenay—Lac-Saint-Jean and Abitibi-Témiscamingue health regions;
- the La Tuque population centre for the Mauricie and Centre-du-Québec health region.

Since May 18, 2020, access is allowed to:

- the Bas-Saint Laurent, Gaspésie—Îles-de-la-Madeleine health regions;
- the territories of the Charlevoix and Charlevoix-Est regional county municipalities for the Capitale-Nationale health region;
- the territory of Ville de Gatineau and Les Collines-de-L'Outaouais regional county municipalities contiguous with Ontario.

Starting from May 31, 2020, the following place will be accessible:

- the Côte-Nord health regions, except for the Minganie and Golfe-du-Saint-Laurent (Basse Côte-Nord) RCMs.

A reopening plan will be announced later for the following regions and territories:

- the Minganie and Golfe-du-Saint-Laurent (Basse-Côte-Nord) RCMs;
- Nord-du-Québec;
- Nunavik;
- Cree Territory of James Bay.

To obtain additional information on the restrictions now in force, please visit [Travel between regions and cities](#).

**Keep informed with up-to-date information by visiting our [COVID-19 website](#).**