

Hello everyone

Around the time of our first communication last Friday, and prior to last Friday, people were returning from out of country travel and being told by Public Health officials that it was not necessary to self isolate, because no active cases had been linked to their flight or their starting point. Some of you who are still without symptoms have been at work since then.

I have attached the Covid-19 update from the Region of Durham. On page one it lists the people their Health Connection Line is most anxious to hear from. It's people who have travelled to China, Iran or Italy; people who have been anywhere outside of Canada and are experiencing symptoms of Covid-19; and anyone who has been in close contact with someone who has been anywhere outside of Canada and is experiencing symptoms of Covid-19.

We have not been advised that any CLDN employee meets any of these criteria, including people who have been out of country.

Yesterday, as part of the Declaration of Emergency, the Ontario Ministry of Health has advised as follows:

- To self isolate for 14 days following return from travel outside of Canada;
- To not travel outside of Canada;
- To practice social distancing. Avoid close contact with people outside of immediate family.

In order to bring ourselves into compliance with this latest advisory, we are advising everyone who returned from foreign travel on March 5, 2020 or thereafter that they should be self-isolating for a period of 14 days. Even if, since your return, you have been at work and going about your personal business as usual, you should still observe the letter of this advisory and book off work until the 14-day period is up.

If you arrived on the 5th your isolation period will be one day. There has been no suggestion that someone returning from foreign travel a week or two ago needs to go into isolation for 14 days beginning now.

To be clear, this is not medical advice, merely a summary of the best advice provincial authorities have put out to date. If you have symptoms or underlying conditions, you obviously need to follow medical advice.

Some of you will have had contact with people we are now sending home for brief periods. But note, the advisory suggests that moving forward you avoid close contact with pretty much everyone. It does not recommend that you go into self-isolation if you have had contact.

Some people are in a position to follow this advisory in a very literal way and pretty much lock their doors and stay inside for the duration. But, barring symptoms and other exceptional circumstances, this is not a good response for people who work in essential services, and that includes us.

However, we are working on protocols that will serve to help you attend work and practice social distancing. We will communicate with you again very shortly on this matter.

Glenn Taylor | CEO

Community Living Durham North | glenn@cldn.ca

Phone: 905.985.8511 ext 225 | Fax 905-985-0799



COVID-19 Update

We are currently experiencing significant call volume on our phone lines

Durham Region Health Department has extended the hours of Durham Health Connection Line. Current hours of operation are 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday to Friday and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on weekends.

Please ensure you have read this message fully to clarify how to get the answer to your question as quickly as possible.



Our current priority is to hear from:

- Health care providers who are seeking or reporting information
- Residents who have travelled to Hubei Province (China), Iran or Italy
- Residents who have recently travelled outside of Canada, including the United States of America, and are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 including fever, cough, or difficulty breathing.
- Residents who have been in close contact with someone who has recently travelled outside of Canada and are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 including fever, cough, or difficulty breathing.

Our ability to properly manage the COVID-19 situation in our community is dependent upon being able to speak with those residents described above. As such, all other residents with questions or concerns regarding COVID-19 are asked to first read through this web page and, if you do not find your answer, to phone TeleHealth at 1-866-797-0000.

3/18/2020

Current situation

[Ontario enacts Declaration of Emergency to protect the public \(https://news.ontario.ca/ooo/en/2020/03/ontario-enacts-declaration-of-emergency-to-protect-the-public.html\)](https://news.ontario.ca/ooo/en/2020/03/ontario-enacts-declaration-of-emergency-to-protect-the-public.html)

On March 17, 2020, the Government of Ontario announced that it is declaring an emergency under s 7.0.1 (1) the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act. As a result, the following establishments are legally required to close immediately:

- All facilities providing indoor recreational programs;
- All public libraries;
- All private schools as defined in the Education Act;
- All licensed child care centres;
- All bars and restaurants, except to the extent that such facilities provide takeout food and delivery;
- All theatres including those offering live performances of music, dance, and other art forms, as well as cinemas that show movies; and
- Concert venues.

Further, all organized public events of over 50 people are also prohibited, including parades and events and communal services within places of worship.

These orders will remain in place until March 31, 2020, at which point they will be reassessed and considered for extension, unless this order is terminated earlier.

As the outbreak of COVID-19 continues to evolve globally, the Ontario Ministry of Health is advising all residents to:

- **Practise social distancing** ([/en/health-and-wellness/resources/Documents/IllnessInfectionDisease/FactsAbout/COVID-19-Social-Distancing.pdf](#)). Avoid close contact with people outside of their immediate family. Close contact includes being within 2 meters of another person.
- Avoid all travel outside of Canada.
- Self-isolate for 14 days upon your return from travel outside of Canada.

If you develop symptoms of COVID-19 (fever, new cough or difficulty breathing) return home immediately and self-isolate. Seek clinical assessment using one of these four options:

1. **Complete an online self-assessment** (<https://www.ontario.ca/page/2019-novel-coronavirus>).
2. Contact Durham Health Connection Line 905-668-2020 or 1-800-841-2729.
3. Contact Telehealth Ontario at 1-866-797-0000.
4. Contact your primary care provider by phone.

If you are in medical distress and need urgent care, you should call 911 and let them know you are self-isolating because of COVID-19.

Status of cases in Durham Region

Durham Region Health Department is currently monitoring eight positive cases of COVID-19 in Durham Region.

The Health Department is actively following up with all close contacts of these positive cases. Individuals who were not in direct or close contact with the cases are not considered at risk of being infected.