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Ontario
Home Builders'
Association

OHBA COVID-19 Member Update - January 14th, 2021

Dear Association Members,

On Tuesday, January 12th, the Government of Ontario implemented a **State of Emergency Order** and invoked wide-ranging new measures to battle the spread of COVID-19 and protect the province's health care system. The **State of Emergency** took effect immediately and will last for 14 days, with the option to renew for an additional 14 days with or without modifications.

The associated **Stay-at-Home Order** took effect today and will be in place for 28-days. General information covering all sectors, including construction, can be found [here](#).

Unlike the Emergency Order from last year, this new order does not suspend provincial timelines and we do not anticipate disruption to municipal approvals, permitting, or inspections, however, continued cooperation from local municipalities is necessary and essential during these challenging times.

OHBA Statement on the Emergency Order and Impact on Residential Construction

“We need to pull together. We all want to be safe at home and at work,” said Joe Vaccaro, CEO of OHBA. “With these new restrictions, the Ontario government continues to make public safety the priority. Our industry has a good track record of implementing enhanced protocols under COVID-19. While the new restrictions will slow the delivery of new housing

for some projects, case levels have gotten to the point that all sectors and residents must be part of the solution. Our members look forward to a time when they can resume full and normal construction levels and continue to serve the residential construction needs of all Ontarians.”

Regulations

The regulation related to permissible construction was posted last night (January 13th at approximately 9 PM).

The regulations have provided additional clarity, and under section (i) sub (ii) there is no date threshold for condominium construction so work on these types of projects may continue uninterrupted.

[O.Reg 10/21: Construction](#)

43. Construction activities or projects and related services, including land surveying and demolition services, that,

(i) are related to residential construction projects where,

(i) a building permit has been granted for a single-family, semi-detached and townhomes,

(ii) the project is a condominium, mixed-use or other residential building, or

(iii) the project involves renovations to residential properties and construction work that was started before January 12th, 2021;

(j) prepare a site for an institutional, commercial, industrial or residential development, including any necessary excavation, grading, roads or utilities infrastructure;

(k) are necessary to temporarily close construction sites that have paused, or that are not active, to ensure ongoing public safety;

[Sales Centres](#)

Real estate (including pre-sale construction). No open houses - showing a property permitted by appointment only.

[Supply Chains](#)

Businesses that supply businesses or places that are permitted to open within Ontario, or

that supply businesses or services that have been declared essential in a jurisdiction outside of Ontario, with the support, products, supplies, systems, or services, including processing, packaging, warehousing, distribution, delivery, and maintenance necessary to operate.

Work from Home Except Where Necessary

Under the Stay-at-Home Order, each person responsible for a business or organization that is open shall ensure that any person who performs work for the business or organization conducts their work remotely, with limited exception, for instance, where the nature of their work requires them to be on-site at the workplace.

Health and Safety Guidelines

Members must make every effort to ensure strict COVID-19 protocols are in place to ensure workers' safety and prevent the spread of the virus on worksites and within operations that support construction activity. The Ministry of Labour will be providing construction-sector specific guidance on these new health and safety protocols shortly and OHBA will update our documents with that new information.

Enforcement Under the State of Emergency

Members should expect increased compliance inspections as the government enhances its enforcement of COVID-19 safety measures. Enforcement can come through Ministry of Labour or any provincial offences officers including the Ontario provincial police, local police forces, bylaw officers and provincial workplace inspectors to issue tickets to individuals who do not comply with the new health and safety orders as well as their employers if they are not enforcing the new requirements. Please visit [MOL](#) and [IHSA](#) websites for the most up to date information.

Tarion

Tarion has provided an update based on the new State of Emergency and Stay-at-Home order, which members can find [here](#). Tarion has extended the builder repair periods on individual homes under the current restrictions, please review your builder portal for the specific details on your projects.

Employer Support Contact Details

Employers who have questions about COVID-19 workplace measures can follow the

link [here](#) for more specific information. You can also call the provincial toll-free line at [1-888-444-3659](tel:1-888-444-3659).

Other Questions

We continue to receive additional specific questions regarding showrooms, décor centres that support residential construction operations. We are working to get additional clarity and as we receive that clarity we will communicate that out to members.

We are all in this together. We need to keep each other safe. Stay safe and be kind.

Please visit our [website](#) for more information on important Member updates on COVID-19 and follow us on social media [@OntarioHBA](#) for association updates.

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