

CLASS ORDER

Made pursuant to Section 22(5.01) of the

Health Protection and Promotion Act, R.S.O, 1990. c.H 7, as amended

THIS CLASS ORDER IS ISSUED AND EFFECTIVE AT 12:01 A.M. ON FEBRUARY 1, 2021

Date: January 28, 2021

To: All persons residing in or present in the City of Windsor and Essex County who:

- a) Are identified as a person diagnosed with COVID-19;
- b) Have the signs and symptoms of COVID-19, have been tested for COVID-19 and are awaiting the results of their test;
- c) Otherwise have reasonable grounds to believe they have one or more symptoms of COVID-19; or
- d) Are a close contact of a person diagnosed with COVID-19.

I, Dr. Wajid Ahmed, Medical Officer of Health, for Windsor and Essex County, ORDER YOU TO TAKE THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS, effective 12:01 a.m. on February 1, 2021:

1. **Isolate yourself without delay** in accordance with instructions provided by Windsor-Essex County Health Unit. This includes remaining in your home or isolation facility. Do not go outside, unless on to a private balcony or enclosed yard where you can avoid close contact with others.

Detailed instructions on how to self-isolate are found in the attached Schedule "A".

2. **Remain in isolation** until the expiry of the required period that begins on the day on which you first show symptoms, are tested, or are diagnosed with COVID-19, whichever is earliest, or on the last day of close contact. The expiry of the isolation period may end after the last day of the required period, as long as on the last day you have no fever (without the use of fever-reducing medications) and your symptoms, if any, have been improving for at least 24 hours. Windsor-Essex County Health Unit may instruct you otherwise in accordance with the current Ministry of Health guidelines:

http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/coronavirus/docs/2019_testing_clearing_cases_guidance.pdf

Directives on the required period of isolation:

- i. **If you are a person described in "(a)" above:**
 - If you have mild or moderate illness: Self-isolate for a *10-day period*.
 - If you have severe illness (e.g., requiring ICU level support) or if you are severely immunocompromised: Self-isolate for a *20-day period*.
- ii. **If you are a person described in "(b)" above:**
 - If the test is negative: Self-isolate until you receive a negative test result, you have had no fever (without the use of fever-reducing medications) for 24 hours, and your symptoms have been improving for at least 24 hours.
 - If the test is positive: You are then subject to the Order as a person described in (a) above.
- iii. **If you are a person described in "(c)" above:**
 - If tested: Self-isolate until you receive a negative test result, you have had no fever (without the use of fever-reducing medications) for 24 hours, and your symptoms have been improving for at least 24 hours. If you receive a positive result, you are then subject to the Order as a person described in (a) above.
 - If not tested: Self-isolate for a 10-day period.
- iv. **If you are a person described in "(d)" above:**
 - If you have no symptoms: Self-isolate for a 14-day period from the last day of close contact.
 - If you develop symptoms during the 14-day period and are tested:
 - If the test is negative: you must remain in self-isolation for 14 days from the last day of close contact.

- If the test is positive: you are then subject to the Order as a person described in (a) above.
- If you develop symptoms during the 14-day period and are not tested:
 - If you have mild or moderate illness: In addition to self-isolating for a minimum of 14 days, you must self-isolate for a *10-day period* from the day on which you first show symptoms. The total period of isolation may end on the day after the *10-day period* from the day on which you first showed symptoms or the *14-day period* from the last day of close contact, whichever falls later.
 - If you have severe illness (e.g. requiring ICU level support) or if you are severely immunocompromised: Self-isolate for a *20-day period* from the day on which you first show symptoms.

3. During the self-isolation period, conduct yourself in such a manner as not to expose another person to infection of COVID-19 by following infection control instructions on the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit website, located at: www.wechu.org/cv, or pursuant to instructions given to you by Windsor-Essex County Health Unit or any other staff or a healthcare facility to which you may seek or receive treatment.

4. Keep away from vulnerable persons, including persons who have an underlying medical condition, persons with a compromised immune system from a medical condition or treatment, persons 60 years of age or older, or persons who are reliant upon homeless shelter or other congregate living setting.

5. Provide Windsor-Essex County Health Unit the names and contact information of close contacts during relevant dates immediately upon request.

6. Follow any further instructions provided by Windsor-Essex County Health Unit pertaining to COVID-19 and the terms and conditions of this order.

7. Seek prompt medical attention if your illness is worsening (e.g., difficulty breathing) by calling 911 and mentioning your COVID-19 related diagnosis or symptoms.

8. The requirements of this Order are subject to necessary modifications for the following persons or class of persons:

- i. A person or class of persons who, in the opinion of Windsor-Essex County Health Unit is asymptomatic and provides an essential service, for the limited purpose of providing that essential service;
- ii. A person receiving essential medical services or treatments, whether or not related to COVID-19; or
- iii. Where a person's isolation, in the opinion of Windsor-Essex County Health Unit, would not be in the public interest.

THE REASONS FOR THIS ORDER ARE:

1. COVID-19 is a disease of public health significance and has been designated as communicable under Ontario Regulation 135/18 as amended. COVID-19 has been declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization. The Province of Ontario has declared an emergency under the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act as a result of the pandemic.
 - a. On March 11, 2020, the spread of COVID-19 was declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization;
 - b. On March 20th, 2020, the first case of COVID-19 was reported in the jurisdiction of the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit;
 - c. At the time of issuing this order, the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit has the 2nd highest cumulative case rate of COVID-19 cases in the province of Ontario;
 - d. On January 12, 2021 the spread of COVID-19 was declared an emergency in Ontario for the second time pursuant to the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act, R.S.O. 1990, c.E.9, as amended, on the basis that COVID-19 constitutes a danger of major proportions; and
 - a. As of the date of this Order, there is evidence of continued community transmission of COVID-19 in the jurisdiction of Windsor-Essex County Health Unit, as evidenced by newly identified cases not connected to facility outbreaks or travel.
2. COVID -19 poses a risk to the health of residents of the City of Windsor and County of Essex through community transmission. The COVID-19 virus is spread from an infected person to a close contact by direct contact or from respiratory secretions from the infected person.
3. To contain the spread of COVID-19, individuals experiencing symptoms consistent with COVID-19 or who are infected with COVID-19, as well as their close contacts, are required to isolate themselves from other people

until they are no longer infectious or potentially infectious. Isolation ensures that these people will not spread their infection to others.

I AM OF THE OPINION, ON REASONABLE AND PROBABLE GROUNDS, THAT:

- a. A communicable disease exists or may exist or there is an immediate risk of an outbreak of a communicable disease in the health unit region served by me;
- b. The communicable disease presents a risk to the health of persons in the health unit region served by me; and
- c. The requirements specified in this Order are necessary in order to decrease or eliminate the risk to health presented by the communicable disease.

I am also of the opinion that the delivery of notice of this Order to each and every member of the class is likely to cause delay that could significantly increase the risk to the health of any person residing in Windsor-Essex County, so notice shall be provided through the public media and the internet via posting on the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit website: <https://www.wechu.org/>

The following definitions apply to this Order:

“close contact” means a person who has been identified as a close contact by Windsor-Essex County Health Unit or who is caring for or living in the same household with a person diagnosed with COVID-19; a person who has signs and symptoms of COVID-19, has been tested for COVID-19 and is awaiting results of their test; or, a person who has reasonable grounds to believe they have one or more symptoms of COVID-19.

“Windsor-Essex County Health Unit” means the Medical Officer of Health or Windsor-Essex County Health Unit staff acting under the direction of the Medical Officer of Health.

“mild or moderate illness” means COVID-19 illness that do not meet the definition of severe illness.

“severe illness” means requiring ICU level of care for COVID-19 illness (e.g., respiratory dysfunction, hypoxia, shock and/or multi-system organ dysfunction).

“severely immunocompromised” includes for example: cancer chemotherapy, untreated HIV infection with CD4 T lymphocyte count <200, combined primary immunodeficiency disorder, taking prednisone 20 mg/day for more than 14 days, taking other immune suppressive medications.

“Symptoms” of COVID-19 are listed on the Ministry of Health’s COVID-19 Reference Document for Symptoms, found here:

http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/coronavirus/docs/2019_reference_doc_symptoms.pdf

NOTICE

TAKE NOTICE THAT each member of the class is entitled to a hearing by the Health Services Appeal and Review Board if you deliver a notice in writing to me (at the address below) and to the Health Services Appeal and Review Board (at 151 Bloor Street West, 9th Floor, Toronto Ontario M5S 1S4) requesting an hearing within 15 days after the publication of this Order or otherwise in the accordance with applicable law. In the context of the COVID -10 outbreak:

All requests for review, submissions, materials, and inquiries should be sent to the Health Services and Appeal Board by email to hsarb@ontario.ca or faxed to the Board at 416-327-8524.

AND TAKE FURTHER NOTICE THAT although a hearing may be requested this Order takes effect when it is delivered to you or brought to your attention.

FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THIS ORDER may result in further legal action being taken against you under sections 36(2), 35, 102 and other relevant provisions of the Health Protection and Promotion Act.

FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THIS ORDER is an offence under section 101 of the Health Protection and Promotion Act for which you may be liable, on conviction, to a fine of not more than \$5,000.00 (for a person) or not more than \$25,000.00 (for a corporation) for every day or part of each day on which the offence occurs or continues.

If you have any questions about this Order, please contact the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit by telephone at 519-258-2146 ext. 1421.

S. Wajid Ahmed, MBBS, MAS, MSc, FRCPC
Medical Officer of Health
The Windsor-Essex County Health Unit
1005 Ouellette Avenue
Windsor, Ontario N9A 4J8

Schedule “A”

How to Self-Isolate

Stay home

- Do not go to work, school or other public places.
- Stay home unless you need to get tested or require emergency medical care.
- Do not use public transportation, taxis or rideshares.

Avoid contact with others

- No visitors unless essential (e.g. care providers)
- Stay away from seniors and people with chronic medical conditions (e.g. diabetes, lung problems, immune deficiency).
- As much as possible, stay in a separate room away from other people in your home and use a separate bathroom if you have one.
- Make sure that shared rooms have good airflow (e.g. open windows).
- If these steps are not possible, keep a distance of at least 2 metres from others at all times.

Keep your distance

- If you are in a room with other people, keep a distance of at least 2 metres and wear a mask or face covering that covers your nose and mouth.
- People should wear a mask when they are in the same room as you.

Wash your hands

- Wash your hands often with soap and water.
- Dry your hands with a paper towel or with cloth towel that no one else will share.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.

Cover your coughs and sneezes

- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze.
- Cough or sneeze into your upper sleeve or elbow, not your hand.
- Throw used tissues in a lined wastebasket and wash your hands.
- Lining the wastebasket with a plastic bag makes waste disposal safer.
- Clean your hands after emptying the wastebasket.

Wear a mask over your nose and mouth

- Wear a mask if you must leave your house to see a health care provider or to get tested for COVID-19.
- Wear a mask when you are within 2 metres of other people or stay in a separate room.
- If you do not have a mask, maintain 2 metres distance from people and cover your cough and sneezes.

Learn more about COVID-19

To learn more and access up-to-date information on COVID-19, visit the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit website at: www.wechu.org/cv or the Ontario Ministry of Health’s website at: www.Ontario.ca/coronavirus.