

### What's New

As of yesterday morning, Ontario premier Doug Ford, has declared a state of emergency for the Province of Ontario. As part of the declaration, the province will mandate the closure of restaurants and bars and prohibit gatherings of more than 50 people, including at indoor recreation centres, theatres and concert venues, until March 31, 2020.

Also, at this morning's conference, Premier Ford announced the "first stage" of a COVID-19 emergency relief fund. These funds are to be utilized to add 75 critical-care beds and 500 post-acute care beds at Ontario hospitals as well as establishing 25 more COVID-19 dedicated assessment centres in the province.

### Active Screening Implemented at CHATS Aurora and Bradford Office Locations

As of Tuesday March 17<sup>th</sup>, we are implementing 'Active Screening' at our offices, starting today. You will be asked to sign in and answer some screening questions and then hand sanitize.

For staff that do not come to an office for work, we would ask you to self-screen prior to attending work, asking yourself the following questions:

#### PART A: Symptoms

1. Do you or anyone in your household have new/worse cough or shortness of breath?	Yes ____ No ____
2. Are you feeling feverish, or have you had shakes or chills in the last 24 hours (>38 degrees Celsius)?	Yes ____ No ____

#### PART B: Travel/Contact

3. Have you traveled in the last 14 days to Iran or Hubei province, China (including Wuhan) OR anywhere in China, Hong Kong, Italy, Japan, Singapore, South Korea, France, Germany or Spain?	Yes ____ No ____
4. Have had close contact with a confirmed or probable case of someone with <b>novel coronavirus</b> (COVID-19)?	Yes ____ No ____
5. Have you had close contact with a person with acute respiratory illness who has been to Iran or Hubei province, China (including Wuhan) OR anywhere in China, Hong Kong, Italy, Japan, Singapore, South Korea, France, Germany or Spain within 14 days prior to their illness onset?	Yes ____ No ____

If you answer yes to any of these questions, please contact your supervisor.

### When to Self-Isolate

At this time, the Ontario government has advised that, 'workers who have travelled and are part of workplaces that are essential to daily living are able to return to work as long as they are asymptomatic. However, they should self-monitor for a period of 14 days and identify themselves to their employer so that a plan can be put into place to ensure the protection of those workplaces.'

#### Here are some documents on how to self-monitor and if needed self-isolate.

However, should you start to feel symptoms of COVID-19 it has been requested that, 'anyone who begins to feel unwell (fever, new cough or difficulty breathing) to return home and self-isolate immediately. People who are self-isolating should seek clinical assessment over the phone – either through TeleHealth Ontario (1-866-797-0000) or by calling their primary care provider's office. If you need additional assessment, your primary care provider or TeleHealth will direct you to in-person care options. If you are in medical distress and need urgent care, you should call 911 and let them know what you are self-isolating because of COVID-19.'

### COVID-19: When should you call York Region public health, Telehealth Ontario, or 911?

NewmarketToday has put together the following information to help you determine who you should contact if you suspect you may have COVID-19.

Several assessment centres are opening this week, with Southlake's COVID-19 assessment centre now open in the ambulance bay next to its emergency

department.

In order to avoid overcrowding at these newly developed centres, local hospital officials are asking individuals to refrain from visiting a COVID-19 assessment centre unless you are experiencing symptoms. Residents are also encouraged to take the [self-assessment tool](#) developed by Public Health Ontario to determine whether or not a visit to one of these centres is required.

The full article can be found [here](#).

## Cyber Security

We ask you to stay on high alert about cyber security. Unfortunately, cyber criminals will look at this time of uncertainty as an opportunity to prey on peoples' fears and system weaknesses. Be vigilant. Check the sender's email address and don't click on any links you are not expecting to receive. If you think something is suspicious call the sender to confirm if it's legitimacy.

## Government Support to Workers

Both the federal and provincial governments in Canada are closely monitoring the spread of the virus and its impact on Canadian jobs, workers, and economic growth, and are implementing protective measures. For example, the Government of Canada will waive the one-week waiting period for people who are in quarantine or have been directed to self-isolate and are claiming for Employment Insurance (EI) sickness benefits as well as exploring income support for those that are not eligible for EI sickness benefits. [Click here for more.](#)

In Ontario, the government is planning to introduce legislation that, if passed, would immediately provide job-protected leave to employees in isolation or quarantine due to COVID-19, or those who need to be away from work to care for children because of school or daycare closures. [Click here for more.](#)

As CHATS learns more about these supports, we will advise employees.

## CHATS Programs & Services—What's Open, What's Not

As a reminder, the following programs are suspended:

Suspended Program	Suspended From	Suspended To
Adult Day Program (Aurora location operating in limited capacity)	March 17 <sup>th</sup> , 2020	April 6 <sup>th</sup> , 2020
All Social & Wellness programs including diversity, exercise and restaurant lunches	March 16 <sup>th</sup> , 2020	April 5 <sup>th</sup> , 2020
Any face-to-face visits	March 16 <sup>th</sup> , 2020	April 5 <sup>th</sup> , 2020
In person Caregiver Support Groups (may operate by phone or via OTN).	March 16 <sup>th</sup> , 2020	April 5 <sup>th</sup> , 2020

## CHATS Website

Our website continues to be updated regularly, please check in at, <https://www.chats.on.ca/covid-19-updates-and-resources> or by clicking the banner on our homepage.

CHATS maintains 'priority' services, meals on wheels for seniors – BradfordToday

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Christina

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