



COVID-19 Information for Individuals & Families

Updated on October 19, 2020

York Region Added to List of Areas of Higher Community Spread

Additional COVID-19 Precautions at Long-Term Care Homes in York Region

The Ontario government is adding York Region to the City of Ottawa, City of Toronto and Region of Peel, as areas with higher community spread of COVID-19. The change means added precautions are now in place to protect residents and staff at long-term care homes in these regions. This means that:

- Essential visitors, including caregivers, are the only visitors allowed
- Effective Monday, October 19 at 12:01 a.m., and until further notice, short-term and temporary absences for social or personal reasons will not be allowed. Only absences for medical or compassionate reasons will be allowed

A complete list of homes affected has been posted [here](#). The province will update the list as the areas with higher community spread change. People planning a visit to a long-term care home are advised to contact the home in advance, to make sure the home is free of outbreaks and to get information on the home's visitor policy and any restrictions. For more information, please click [here](#).



Government of Canada Launches Challenges to help Reduce Environmental Impacts of PPE

The COVID-19 pandemic has generated an increase in the use of disposable personal protective equipment (PPE). To reduce the environmental impact of PPE in Canada, the Government of Canada is supporting the development of solutions that will lead to more sustainable PPE, including reusability, alternative materials, improved recyclability, novel recycling technologies and compostability. The Government of Canada announced the launch of two challenges through the Innovative Solutions Canada (ISC) program to make personal protective equipment (PPE) more compostable and recyclable:

- Recycling technologies for disposable (single-use) PPE used in health care sector: National Research Council Canada (NRC), in collaboration with Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) and Health Canada (HC), is seeking solutions for the efficient and cost-effective recycling of disposable PPE waste generated in the Canadian health care system
- Compostable disposable surgical masks and compostable disposable respirators used in the Canadian health care system: NRC, in collaboration with ECCC, HC and Natural Resources Canada, is seeking solutions for the manufacturing of compostable disposable surgical masks and compostable disposable respirators to be used by health care workers

These challenges will close on November 6 and 17, 2020, respectively. The Government of Canada invites small and medium-sized Canadian enterprises to propose innovations that address the requirements of these challenges. Under these two challenges, successful applicants could receive up to \$300,000 to develop a proof of feasibility. If accepted into Phase 2, companies could receive up to \$1 million to develop a working prototype.

Please click [here](#) for more information.

