



Office of the Medical Officer of Health
Public Health Services
Healthy and Safe Communities Dept.
City of Hamilton
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For posting to web, notification via media release and provision at time of inspection

July 30, 2020

To: All owners and operators of restaurants and bars

Re: Responsibilities of restaurants and bars to reduce the spread of COVID-19

I am writing to all persons responsible for restaurants and bars in the City of Hamilton that are permitted to open as per Stage 3 of Ontario's reopening plan, to highlight your responsibilities and requirements with respect to public health. These include modifications of your premises and implementing practices to reduce the spread of COVID-19. This is particularly important given the numerous accounts of cases and clusters resulting from bars and restaurants that have been reported in Canada and worldwide.

In particular, I would like to remind you of the Provincial Requirements that apply to all **Restaurants, bars, etc.** as set out in:

- 1) Ontario Regulation 364/20 – Rules for Areas in Stage 3, made under the *Reopening Ontario (A Flexible Response to COVID-19) Act, 2020* (“the ROA”) found at: <https://www.canlii.org/en/on/laws/regu/o-reg-364-20/latest/o-reg-364-20.html>; and,
- 2) Ontario Regulation 428/20 – Amending O. Reg. 364/20, made under the ROA, found at: <https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/r20428>.

In addition, locally, as of July 20, 2020, the City of Hamilton enacted a Face Covering By-Law that applies to enclosed public spaces, including restaurants and bars. For further details of the By-Law and your responsibilities, please visit www.hamilton.ca/masks or the link to the By-Law ([City of Hamilton By-Law 20-155](#)).

The City of Hamilton has also developed guidance for restaurants and bars, which can be found in this link: <https://www.hamilton.ca/coronavirus/workplaces-and-public-places>.

It is important to note that these requirements are in addition to your usual responsibilities related to Food Safety and other health matters under the *Health Protection and Promotion Act* (“the HPPA”) and related regulations.

City Public Health and Municipal Law Enforcement staff will be following up with inspections, as well as responding to complaints, over the coming days and weeks to ensure awareness and education in your responsibilities. Further, as a reminder, the above-noted requirements may be subject to enforcement as necessary under the relevant legislation (including the ROA, the Face Covering By-Law, or the HPPA).

I want to acknowledge and thank you for all of the efforts made by both businesses and residents in Hamilton to protect the health and safety of workers and customers. As more businesses open and people increase their contacts, the risk of a rapid rise in COVID-19 infections and outbreaks is ever-present. Therefore, we must continue the hard work everyone across the City has done in reducing transmission of COVID-19 in order to ensure the gains that have been won are not lost.

Sincerely,



Dr. Elizabeth Richardson, MD, MHSc, FRCPC
Medical Officer of Health

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