



Elgin St. Thomas Site
Administrative Office
1230 Talbot Street
St. Thomas, ON
N5P 1G9

Woodstock Site
410 Buller Street
Woodstock, ON
N4S 4N2

**CLASS ORDER
MADE PURSUANT TO SECTION 22 OF THE
HEALTH PROTECTION AND PROMOTION ACT, R.S.O. 1990, c.H.7**

THIS CLASS ORDER ISSUED AND EFFECTIVE AUGUST 30, 2021, AT 12:01 a.m. REPLACES AND SUPERCEDES THE ORDER ISSUED AND EFFECTIVE MAY 21, 2021.

DATE: August 30, 2021

TO: All persons residing or present in Elgin County, Oxford County and the City of St. Thomas who:

- a. Are a confirmed case or probable case of COVID-19;
- b. Have new symptoms (even mild symptoms) or worsening 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 now have symptoms (even mild symptoms) of COVID-19, or have had such symptoms within the past ten (10) days;
- d. Are a close contact of a person identified in a. even if they do not themselves have any symptoms of COVID-19; or
- e. Are a parent, or person with responsibilities of a parent, of a person under 16 years of age identified in a., b., c. or d. who resides or is present in Elgin County, Oxford County or the City of St. Thomas.

NOTE: The symptoms of COVID-19 and definitions for "confirmed case," "probable case," and "close contact" are defined below.

I, Dr. Joyce Lock, Medical Officer of Health of the Oxford Elgin St. Thomas Health Unit o/a Southwestern Public Health, ORDER YOU TO TAKE THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS, effective 12:01 a.m. on August 30, 2021 at 12:01 a.m.

1. When specifically directed by Southwestern Public Health, to submit to an examination by a physician and/or a qualified health care provider, which examination may include a test for COVID-19, and to deliver to Southwestern Public Health the result of any such test for COVID-19.
2. **Isolate yourself immediately** and remain in isolation from all other persons ("self-isolation"). While in self-isolation, you must conduct yourself so you do not expose any other person to infection or possible infection from COVID-19. The instructions you must follow are set out in paragraphs 3-6 below.
3. **If you are a person described in a. b. or c. above**, remain in self-isolation for a minimum 10-day period that begins on the day you first show symptoms, are tested or are diagnosed with COVID-19, whichever is earliest unless otherwise instructed by Southwestern Public Health in accordance with the current Ministry of Health guidelines, as amended. If you receive a negative COVID-19 test result during this period, you may discontinue self-isolation once fever is resolved for at least 24 hrs without the use of fever-reducing medication, respiratory symptoms improved for 24 hrs and GI symptoms have resolved for 48 hrs.
4. **If you are a person described in d. above and are not fully vaccinated**, you must remain in self-isolation for 10 days after the day on which you last had close contact with a person described in paragraph a. above, unless otherwise instructed by Southwestern Public Health in accordance with the current Ministry of Health guidelines, as amended. If you receive a negative COVID-19 test result during this period you must still complete the 10 days of self-isolation. If, on the 10th day, you have no symptoms, your self-isolation can end unless otherwise directed by Southwestern Public Health.
5. **If you are a person described in d. above and are fully vaccinated**, you are not required to self isolate as long as you do not have symptoms of COVID-19 but should self-monitor for symptoms of COVID-19, and seek COVID-19 testing. Additionally, you should meticulously follow all public health measures including maintaining physical distancing from others outside your household, wearing a face covering if physical distancing is not possible (including when outdoors), practicing good hand hygiene, and avoiding contact with vulnerable individuals.
6. **The instructions you must follow** during self-isolation are in the Public Health Ontario fact sheet, *How to Self- Isolate* dated October 28, 2020 (or as current), attached as Schedule 1 to this Order.

All instructions in *How to Self-Isolate* (attached) form part of this Order.

This fact sheet may be updated from time to time. You must follow the instructions in the current version attached to this Order as posted at:

<https://www.swpublichealth.ca/content/community-update-novel-coronavirus-covid-19>

7. **During the periods described in 3, 4 and 5 above**, remain reachable for monitoring by Southwestern Public Health and/or other public health staff (defined below).

Inform Southwestern Public Health if you need help to properly self-isolate or while you are self-isolating, e.g., food, water, accommodation, clothing, appropriate medical treatment and family, religious or other arrangements.

8. **Seek immediate medical attention if your illness is worsening** (e.g., you have difficulty breathing) by calling 911. Tell them of your COVID-19 diagnosis or symptom(s) and answer all screening questions accurately (including symptom and travel history) so that you will receive appropriate care and the right infection prevention and control precautions are taken.

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

- a. A person who, in my opinion as Medical Officer of Health, provides an essential service, for the limited purpose of providing that essential service;
- b. A person receiving essential medical services or treatments, whether related to COVID-19 or not; or
- c. Where a person's self-isolation, in my opinion, as Medical Officer of Health, would not be in the public interest.
- d. Previously positive individuals (confirmed case of COVID-19) where their initial positive result was ≤ 90 days ago AND they have been cleared from their initial infection who have been identified as a high-risk contact of a confirmed or probable case.

11. **Follow any further directions provided to you personally by Southwestern Public Health** and/or other public health staff pertaining to COVID-19 and the terms of this Order. This includes sharing the names and contact information for all contacts and other information requested by Southwestern Public Health and/or other public health staff to permit appropriate case and contact management for COVID-19.

12. As provided by section 23 of the Health Protection and Promotion Act, the terms of this Order apply to all persons under 16 years of age as served upon their parent(s), and any other person(s) who have the responsibilities of a parent, in relation to the person under 16 years of age, who shall ensure compliance with the Order by the person under 16 years of age.

The reasons for this Order are that:

1. COVID-19 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.

2. COVID-19 is present in the region served by Southwestern Public Health and therefore poses a risk to the health of the region's residents through community transmission. The COVID-19 virus is spread from an infected person close to a close contact by direct contact or when respiratory secretions from the infected person enter the eyes, nose, or mouth of another 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, COVID-19, exists or may exist or there is an immediate risk of an outbreak of this communicable disease in the health unit served by me;

b. This communicable disease presents a risk to the health of persons in the health unit 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 this communicable disease.

I am also of the opinion that the delivery of notice of this Order to each and every member of the class to whom it is directed is likely to cause a delay that could significantly increase the risk to the health of any person residing in Elgin County, Oxford County and the City of St. Thomas, so notice shall be provided through the public media and the internet via posting at:

<https://www.swpublichealth.ca/content/community-update-novel-coronavirus-covid-19>

The following definitions apply to this Order:

"Close contact" means a person who, within the past 10 days, has had a high-risk exposure to a confirmed or probable COVID-19 case. For example, a person who:

- a. Lived with or otherwise had close, unprotected and prolonged contact, e.g., within 2 metres (6 feet) for more than 15 minutes, with a probable or confirmed case of COVID-19 during their period of communicability;
 - o "Unprotected" means without appropriate P.P.E. (personal protective equipment). A non-medical mask or face-covering is not P.P.E.
- b. Have been identified by Southwestern Public Health or another public health unit as a close contact of a probable or confirmed case of COVID-19.

"Confirmed case" means a person with a positive laboratory test for COVID-19. For more detail, see the Ministry of Health definition at: http://health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/coronavirus/docs/2019_case_definition.pdf.

"Southwestern Public Health" means the Medical Officer of Health or Southwestern Public Health staff acting under the direction of the Medical Officer of Health.

"Fully vaccinated individual" means an individual ≥ 14 days after receiving their second dose of a two-dose COVID19 vaccine series or their first dose of a one-dose COVID-19 vaccine series.

"Fever is resolved" means that your temperature is 37.7 degrees Celsius or lower.

"Other public health staff" means Public Health Ontario staff and/or such other public health staff as Southwestern Public Health may determine.

"Probable case" means:

- a. A person with symptoms compatible with COVID-19 who has not had a laboratory test for COVID-19, AND:
 - o Traveled to an affected area (including inside of Canada) in the 14 days prior to symptom onset; OR
 - o Close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19; OR
 - o Lived in or worked in a facility known to be experiencing an outbreak of COVID-19, e.g., long- term care, prison; OR
- b. A person with symptoms compatible with COVID-19 AND in whom laboratory diagnosis of COVID-19 is inconclusive.

For more detail, see the Ministry of Health definition at: http://health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/coronavirus/docs/2019_case_definition.pdf.

"Symptoms" of COVID-19 as listed on [Ministry of Health COVID-19 Reference Document for Symptoms](#)

NOTICE

TAKE NOTICE THAT each member of the class is entitled to a hearing by the Health Services Appeal and Review Board if the member has delivered to me at the address below, and to the Health Services Appeal and Review Board, by email to hsarb@ontario.ca or faxed to the HSARB at 416-327-8524, notice in writing, requesting a hearing within fifteen (15) days after publication of this Order or otherwise in accordance with applicable law.

AND TAKE FURTHER NOTICE THAT although a hearing may be requested, this Order takes effect when it is delivered to a member of the class or brought to the attention of a member of the class.

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 sections 100 and 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 \$25,000 (for a corporation) for every day or part of each day on which the offence occurs or continues.

Dr. Joyce Lock, MD, M.S.C., FRCPC
Medical Officer of Health
Southwestern Public Health
1230 Talbot Street
St. Thomas, Ontario, N5P 1G9

This Order shall be posted on the Southwestern Public Health website:
www.swpublichealth.ca

Inquiries about this Order should be directed to Southwestern Public Health at 1-800-922-0096 x 9.

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

How to Self-Isolate

You must isolate yourself from others if you have COVID-19 symptoms or may have been exposed to COVID-19. If you start to feel worse, contact your health care provider or Telehealth (1-866-797-0000).

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 two metres from others at all times.



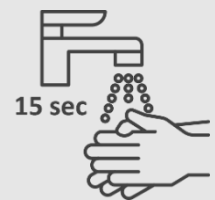
Keep your distance

- If you are in a room with other people, keep a distance of at least two 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 two metres distance from people and cover your cough and sneezes. See [physical distancing](#).



What should I do if I develop symptoms?

- Complete the [COVID-19 Self-Assessment](#).
- Contact Telehealth (1-866-797-0000) or your health care provider if you have questions.
- Anyone with whom you had close physical contact (e.g., in your household) in the two days before your symptoms started or after symptoms started should also self-isolate. If you have questions about this, call your [local public health unit](#).
- Your local public health unit or testing provider will tell you how long you need to self-isolate based on your test results and situation.
- When you stop isolating, you should continue with physical distancing measures and wear a mask when unable to maintain 2 metres distance from people outside your household.
- If you are still unwell at the end of your self-isolation period, contact Telehealth or your health care provider.

Learn about the virus

To learn more and access up-to-date information on COVID-19, visit the Ontario Ministry of Health's website at ontario.ca/coronavirus.

For more information please contact: _____

The information in this document is current as of October 28, 2020

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