

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT SWPH CLASS ORDER, SECTION 22: SELF-ISOLATION

COVID-19 Class Order

Dated: July 23, 2020

Under what authority did Southwestern Public Health (SWPH) issue a Class Order related to the COVID-19 pandemic?

The *Health Protection and Promotion Act* authorizes the Medical Officer of Health to make a Class Order to address the risks presented by the potential spread of COVID-19 in Oxford County, Elgin County, and the City of St. Thomas.

Why did the Medical Officer of Health issue this Class Order?

COVID-19 has been designated as communicable under Ontario Regulation 135/18. 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 because of the pandemic.

COVID-19 is present in the region served by Southwestern Public Health and therefore poses a health risk to the residents of the region through community transmission. Most residents are compliant with public health measures as directed by Southwestern Public Health but not everyone takes these measures seriously. This Order is a proactive measure that strengthens our ability to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and ensures the health of individuals residing in our region.

Who is required to comply with this Order?

The Order applies to all persons residing in or present in the health unit's region (Oxford County, Elgin County, and the City of St. Thomas) who are identified as:

- a) a person diagnosed with COVID-19;

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT SWPH CLASS ORDER, SECTION 22: SELF-ISOLATION

- b) a person who has the signs and symptoms of COVID-19, have been tested for COVID-19
- c) and who is awaiting the results of their test;
- d) a person who otherwise has reasonable grounds to believe they have symptoms of COVID-19 or who is a close contact of any of the above.

What does the Order entail?

- Isolate yourself without delay in accordance with instructions provided by Southwestern Public Health. 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. You may not have any visitors into your home except as permitted by Southwestern Public Health.
- Remain in isolation for a 14-day 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, unless otherwise instructed by Southwestern Public Health in accordance with the current Ministry of Health guidelines as amended:
www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/coronavirus/docs/2019_testing_clearing_cases_guidance.pdf
- During the self-isolation period, conduct yourself in such a manner as not to expose another person to infection or potential infection from COVID-19.
- Keep away from vulnerable persons.
- Seek prompt medical attention if your illness is worsening (e.g. difficulty breathing) by calling 911 and telling them of your COVID-19 related diagnosis or symptoms.

When is the Order effective? How long must people comply with the Order?

The Order is effective from **11:59 pm on July 23, 2020**. It will remain in effect until the Medical Officer of Health determines it is no longer required.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT SWPH CLASS ORDER, SECTION 22: SELF-ISOLATION

What is the definition of “Close Contact”?

A close contact means you are caring for or living in the same household with someone who has COVID-19 or has otherwise been identified as a close contact by Southwestern Public Health.

What is the definition of a “Vulnerable Person”?

A vulnerable person is a person who (i) has an underlying medical condition; (ii) has a compromised immune system from a medical condition or treatment; (iii) is 70 years of age or older; or (iv) is reliant upon a homeless shelter or other congregate (group) living setting.

How could the Order be enforced if a person fails to comply?

Individuals residing in the region served by Southwestern Public Health (Oxford County, Elgin County, the City of St. Thomas) are required to follow the requirements under this Order. Those who do not do so, can be charged and fined up to \$5,000 per day.

Can a person challenge the Order?

Individuals identified in the Class Order may challenge the Order by appealing to the [Health Services Appeal and Review Board](#).

More Information

If you have questions about the Class Order, please call Southwestern Public Health at 1-800-922-0096 x 9 to speak to a member of our team.