



### Chamber Event Updates...

- April Business After Hours – Cancelled
- Business Excellence Awards - Date to be Confirmed
- May Business After Hours - Date to be confirmed

The Chatham-Kent Chamber of Commerce is committed to keeping our members and Chatham-Kent businesses updated. We recognize that information and circumstances are rapidly changing and we will continue to bring you updated information as we receive that may assist you in your business matters.

The Chatham-Kent Chamber of Commerce will be sharing information as frequently as possible on our social media sites

Be sure to Follow us on Facebook and Twitter



### COVID-19 – Updates...

- [Ontario to Close All Non-Essential Businesses](#)
- [Canadian Chamber of Commerce and Business Partners COVID-19 Webinars](#)
- [Ontario Chamber of Commerce PREPAREDNESS TOOLKIT FOR ONTARIO BUSINESSES](#)
- [COVID-19 Update – Prime Minister Announcements](#)
- [Chamber of Commerce Group Insurance COVID-19 Update](#)

---

## **ONTARIO TO CLOSE ALL NON-ESSENTIAL BUSINESSES**

Ontario to close all non-essential businesses. Change comes into effect at 11:59 p.m. on Tuesday, March 24, 2020.

Due to the evolving COVID-19 situation, the Ontario government will be ordering at-risk workplaces to close-down, while encouraging businesses to explore opportunities to continue operations through work-from-home and innovative business models.

At the same time, the government reminds businesses to put in place protocols for physical distancing and regular hand-washing in order to protect the health and safety of employees and the general public.

[Click here to read the Ontario list of essential workplaces](#)

Note: teleworking and online commerce are permitted at all times for all businesses.



**In association with Canadian Chamber of Commerce and Business Partners, following webinars are available this week:**

[BDC: How to Cope with the Impacts of COVID-19 on Your Business](#) | March 25

[Canadian Payroll Association: Payroll Continuity Webinar](#) | March 25

[The Canadian Society of Association Executives \(CSAE\): Business Continuity Webinar](#) | March 26

---



## COVID-19 PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS TOOLKIT FOR ONTARIO BUSINESSES

As the situation with COVID-19 continues to evolve, it is critical that businesses are equipped with the knowledge, skills, and resources to respond to protect public health and ensure the continued essential operations of their organizations.

The Ontario Chamber of Commerce team, in collaboration with Hicks Morley, have put together a toolkit to help support businesses be prepared for any human-resources or operational-related disruptions.

The guidelines and resources contained in this toolkit have been prepared to assist businesses in planning for and adaption to the disruption of COVID-19 and any future influenza pandemics.



---

### COVID-19 Update

The Prime Minister [announced](#) an additional \$5 billion in lending capacity through Farm Credit Canada for our hardworking farmers and food producers. In addition, to keep more money in farmers' pockets during these critical months, all eligible farmers who have an outstanding [Advance Payments Program](#) loan due on or before April 30 will receive a Stay of Default, allowing them an additional six months to repay the loan.

The Prime Minister also [announced](#) that we will provide \$192 million to directly support vaccine development and production in Canada, as part of our \$275 million in funding for coronavirus research and medical countermeasures. The funding will be used to advance projects that are already underway by university researchers and others to respond to COVID-19, and ensure domestic supply of potential vaccines. We are asking every university, college, polytechnic, and CEGEP in the country to identify the ways they can help, and many institutions have already stepped up.

Our government is committed to protecting the safety of Canadians, while supporting our economy and ensuring farmers and producers have the workers they need during this extraordinary time.

The Prime Minister announced that 450 Canadians had arrived home safely from Casablanca, and highlighted [our government's plan](#) to bring more Canadians home in the days to come. Also, Minister [Tassi urged federally-regulated employers](#) to take the necessary steps to ensure the safety of their employees and update and create their own hazard prevention programs.

The Prime Minister [announced](#) that the Government House Leader has asked the Speaker of the House of Commons to recall the House in order to introduce urgent economic measures, as part of Canada's \$82 billion response to support workers and businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic. The quick passage of this legislation is important to ensure Canadians have the financial support needed during this crisis. The House is returning March 24, at 12 p.m. ET.

---

### The Chamber of Commerce Group Insurance COVID-19 Update

An update on all plan websites, continual update of Frequently Asked Questions page, along with the most up-to-date information on the COVID-19 pandemic

[View Update here](#)

# COVID-19



## COVID-19

### Be Prepared, Be Informed, and Protect Yourself

#### COVID-19 is a new type of coronavirus

- Coronaviruses can cause minor and more serious infections.
- COVID-19 is thought to be transmitted by close contact with people and through respiratory droplets.
- Symptoms of COVID-19 infections include fever, cough and difficulty breathing.

**Social distancing measures** can help reduce the number of new cases, and protect communities.

Self-isolation is essential if you have symptoms or have been diagnosed - stay home if you do not need medical assistance.

Keep a distance between yourself and others, at work and in public places.

Avoid crowds and large social events.



**WASH YOUR HANDS** often with soap and water for 20 seconds.



**COUGH OR SNEEZE** in a tissue or the bend of your arm. Wash your hands afterwards.



**CLEAN SURFACES** that are often touched, like phones, toilets, door handles, etc.



**AVOID TOUCHING** your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands. Social distancing measures can help reduce the number of new cases, and protect communities.

## Resources:

### Local

[Public Health Information on COVID-19](#)

[Workplace Information](#)

### Provincial & Federal

[Ontario Chamber of Commerce – COVID-19 Preparedness Toolkit](#)

[Canadian Chamber of Commerce – Pandemic Preparedness Guide for Business](#)

[Government of Canada Support for Small Businesses](#)

[Wage subsidy for Businesses](#)

---