

## MEMBER BULLETIN

April 29, 2020

### ***A Framework for Reopening our Province***

On April 27<sup>th</sup>, the Government of Ontario published [A Framework for Reopening our Province](#). The Framework is a “road map” rather than a calendar for when businesses can reopen. It does not provide details of what the ordering of sectors for the reopening process will look like, but rather outlines the criteria Ontario’s Chief Medical Officer of Health and health experts will use to advise the government on the loosening of emergency measures, as well as guiding principles for the safe, gradual reopening of businesses, services and public spaces.

Public health officials will monitor each stage for two to four weeks, as they assess the evolution of COVID-19 outbreak to determine if it is necessary to change course to maintain public health.

There are three stages in the framework:

- Stage 1: For businesses that were ordered to close or restrict operations, opening select workplaces that can immediately modify operations to meet public health guidance. Opening some outdoor spaces like parks and allowing for a greater number of individuals to attend some events. Hospitals would also begin to offer some non-urgent and scheduled surgeries, and other health care services.
- Stage 2: Opening more workplaces, based on risk assessments, which may include some service industries and additional office and retail workplaces. Some larger public gatherings would be allowed, and more outdoor spaces would open.
- Stage 3: Opening of all workplaces responsibly and further relaxing of restrictions on public gatherings.

The Chief Medical Officer of Health and health experts will provide advice to the government about easing public health measures using a range of set criteria, including:

- A consistent two-to-four week decrease in the number of new daily COVID-19 cases;
- Sufficient acute and critical care capacity, including access to ventilators and ongoing availability of personal protective equipment;

- Approximately 90 per cent of new COVID-19 contacts are being reached by local public health officials within one day, with guidance and direction to contain community spread; and,
- Ongoing testing of suspected COVID-19 cases, especially of vulnerable populations, to detect new outbreaks quickly.

If you have any questions please contact Patrick McManus (905-629-7766 ext. 222 or [patrick.mcmanus@oswca.org](mailto:patrick.mcmanus@oswca.org)).