

As we head into the long weekend, here is an update “clarification” we have received this morning May 16, 2021 with some frequently asked questions pertaining to fishing, cottages, trailers etc. Thought we would share:

Province Wide Shutdown Update

The province-wide shut down and stay-at-home order has been extended to June 2nd, 2021. Here are the regulations you need to know as we come closer to the long weekend. Hotels, motels, lodges, cabins, cottages, resorts and other shared rental accommodation: Any indoor pools, communal steam rooms, saunas or whirlpools, indoor fitness centres, or other indoor recreational facilities that are part of the operation of these businesses, are closed.

When we requested clarification on how the stay-at-home order impacts lodges, the Government told us the following: Under the Stay-at-Home order, the regulations state that individuals are only to travel for essential purposes such as getting groceries or medical appointments. Travel outside of your respective health region is not permitted at this time.

It is up to your guests to respect this regulation. If you do choose to operate your business regularly during this time, individuals will need to be from the same household in each cabin/cottage and you will need to comply with the regulations established for lodges.

Seasonal campgrounds: Campsites must be made available only for trailers and recreational vehicles that are (1) used by individuals who are in need of housing or (2) permitted to be there by the terms of a full season contract. Only campsites with electricity, water services and facilities for sewage disposal may be provided. All recreational facilities in the campground and all other shared facilities in the campground, other than washrooms and showers, must be closed.

When seeking clarification about how the stay-at-home order impacts seasonal campgrounds, we received the following from both the Government and Camping in Ontario: To comply with the stay-at-home order, individuals who are permitted to be on the campsite can only be there for under 24 hours (to do maintenance) or stay a minimum of 14 days. Seasonal campsites are treated as secondary residences for the purpose of the latest shutdown period/regulations. The order does not permit weekend trips to the trailer. Restaurants, bars, and other food or drink establishments: Take out, drive through, and delivery permitted only (includes the sale of alcohol).

You must close all outdoor recreational amenities highlighted below:

All outdoor sports facilities and multi-use fields, including baseball diamonds, soccer fields, frisbee golf locations, tennis, platform tennis, table tennis and pickleball courts, basketball

courts, BMX parks, and skate parks and recreational areas containing outdoor fitness equipment.

All outdoor picnic sites and picnic tables in park and recreational areas.

Outdoor playgrounds and outdoor play structures may be open, with physical distancing in place.

Marinas: Marinas can only offer the following services:

Repairing or servicing boats or other watercraft.

Placing boats or other watercraft in the water to be secured to a dock until the marina is open to the public.

Any other services that may be required to (i) enable individuals to access their place of residence or their other property, (ii) support government operations or services, or (iii) support the transportation of items by commercial barges.

For greater certainty, the person who operates the marina shall not permit it to be used for recreational boating purposes.

Province-Wide Shutdown FAQs

Q. Are individuals allowed to go fishing?

There is no regulation prohibiting individuals from fishing, so long as social distancing is maintained with anyone outside your household if fishing off-shore, and that the individuals are from the same household if they are fishing from a boat (as gatherings with anyone outside your household are not permitted at this time).

Q. I have a group of individuals from different households booked for the long weekend. Am I allowed to host them? What should I tell them?

Under the Stay-at-Home order, the regulations state that individuals are only to travel for essential purposes such as getting groceries or medical appointments. Travel outside of your respective health region is not permitted at this time. It is up to your guests to respect this regulation. If you do choose to operate your business regularly during this time, individuals will need to be from the same household in each cabin/cottage and you will need to comply with the regulations established for lodges.

NOTO recommends that if you choose to open, make sure group individuals from the same household in each cabin, ideally have them bring their own boats - if not provide each household with a separate boat, and have your guests sign a form acknowledging that you have communicated with them the COVID-19 regulations that impact your business and stay-at-home order, as it is their responsibility to comply with the stay-at-home order. So long as you comply with the regulations listed above, and have your guests acknowledge their role in complying with the regulations, you have done your part.

Q. A lot of individuals are calling to tell me that they want access to their seasonal campsite for the long weekend. They've paid a season pass, but they don't want to comply with the stay-at-home order stipulations. I'm worried they will come and do what they want, regardless what I say. What should I do? What should I be telling them?

NOTO recommends that you highlight all the regulations that are currently impacting your business and the stay-at-home order stipulations highlighted in the article above to your seasonal contract holders. If they still choose to come, have them sign a form acknowledging that you have communicated the regulations with them, and that it is their responsibility to comply with the stay-at-home order. So long as you comply with the regulations listed above, and your guests acknowledge their role in complying with the regulations, you have done your part.