

Memorandum

To: Employment Ontario Delivery Partners

From: David Carter-Whitney
Assistant Deputy Minister, Employment and Training Division
Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development

Date: March 17, 2020

Subject: **Update: State of Emergency and Employment Ontario**

Dear Employment Ontario delivery partners:

I am writing to provide you with further information in light of the Premier's message from this morning [declaring a state of emergency](#) under s 7.0.1 (1) in the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act*. As I mentioned yesterday, this is a challenging and evolving situation and I am committed to providing you with the most up to date information and how it relates to the delivery of employment services.

In his declaration, the Premier enacted specific powers to continue to protect the health and safety of all individuals and families and indicated an increased investment to enhance the province's response to COVID-19. He was also clear that most businesses can remain open and that government services will still be available to ensure the citizens of Ontario continue to have the support they require.

As mentioned in my communication yesterday, we encourage your organization to take steps to ensure social distancing and minimize in person client interactions. These services are critical to the livelihood of our clients and we are supportive of alternative approaches to providing these services. Again, we are happy to have conversations with you about contingency planning over the phone and are open to alternative solutions to delivery. Please know that ministry staff are working diligently to consider various client scenarios and developing mitigation strategies as this situation continues to evolve.

Thank you again for your continued service during this difficult time. As the situation develops, I will continue to communicate with you. As a reminder- for the latest information on COVID-19, please visit the [Ministry of Health's website](#), updated twice daily, seven days a week. The [COVID-19 resource page](#) also contains questions and answers and links to more information. This page will be continuously updated as additional information becomes available.

Note: A French language version of the memo will be posted on the Employment Ontario Partners' Gateway shortly.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

David Carter-Whitney
Assistant Deputy Minister
Employment and Training Division