

**ORDER of the Medical Officer of Health
under Section 22
Health Protection and Promotion Act
R.S.O., 1990 Chapter H. 7**

Cornwall, July 30, 2021

THIS ORDER IS DIRECTED TO THE OWNERS, OPERATORS AND ADMINISTRATORS OF AGRICULTURAL FARMS LOCATED IN THE UNITED COUNTIES OF STORMONT, DUNDAS & GLENGARRY; THE UNITED COUNTIES OF PRESCOTT-RUSSELL; AND THE CITY OF CORNWALL (HEREINAFTER “THE BUSINESSES”) WHO:

- a) Employ migrant farm workers in any capacity.
- b) Participate in the federal Temporary Foreign Worker (TFW) program.
- c) Operate any model of seasonal housing accommodations

WHEREAS the World Health Organization has declared a public health emergency as a result of the 2019 Novel Coronavirus declared pandemic (“**COVID-19**”);

WHEREAS the Province of Ontario previously declared an emergency pursuant to the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c. E.9 as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, and has continued various orders previously made under that Act by way of the *Reopening Ontario (A Flexible Response to COVID-19) Act*, 2020, c. 17 (the “**Reopening Act**”);

WHEREAS the Medical Officer of Health of the Eastern Ontario Health Unit, is of the opinion, upon reasonable and probable grounds, that:

- (a) There is an immediate risk of an outbreak of COVID-19 in the area served by the Eastern Ontario Health Unit;
- (b) COVID-19 presents a risk to the health of persons in the area served by the Eastern Ontario Health Unit; and
- (c) the requirements specified in this Order are necessary in order to decrease or eliminate the risk to health presented by COVID-19;

WHEREAS the *Health Protection and Promotion Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c. H.7 provides that an order may be directed to a class of persons; and

WHEREAS the Medical Officer of Health is of the opinion that delivery of notice of this Order to each member of a class of persons is likely to cause a delay that could significantly increase the risk to the health of any person;

NOW THEREFORE, I, Dr Paul Roumeliotis, Medical Officer of Health of the Eastern Ontario Health Unit, order you to **immediately** take the following actions:

1. Develop and submit a workplace Safety Plan to the Eastern Ontario Health Unit (EOHU). The workplace Safety Plan must include:
 - i. Contact information of all employees (permanent, temporary, or contract) who will be working on the farm, including names, telephone numbers, cohort details, housing location (bunkhouse or off-site address), etc. and should be available to the EOHU within 24 hours when requested to support case and outbreak management.
 - ii. A plan to conduct daily active screening of all workers at the beginning of the day/shift, including any other persons on the farm.
 - iii. All recommended components as outlined in the following resource: [Develop your COVID-19 Workplace Safety Plan](#).
2. To the extent possible, workers should exclusively work at one farm or workplace, including temporary help agency workers. Employers utilizing temporary help agency workers should cohort these workers separately from other existing cohorts of workers on the farm.
3. Four (4) weeks prior to a new worker's arrival, submit to the EOHU, an Arrival/ Quarantine plan, that includes a list of names and contact information of all TFWs scheduled to arrive in Canada; their planned date of arrival, location of quarantine site and transportation plans from their point of entry to Canada to quarantine location.
4. Ensure that all TFWs arriving in Canada follow travel related COVID-19 requirements including quarantine and testing as applicable. When required, workers are quarantined for 14 days from the date of arrival in Canada. During the 14-day quarantine period:
 - i. Employers should ensure new arrivals are not placed in a congregate setting that has active COVID-19 cases, that upon arrival TFWs are quarantined individually or in cohorts and separated from existing cohorts already in quarantine.
 - ii. Ensure TFWs in quarantine are kept at a minimum of two (2) metres apart or provide a separate room or alternative accommodation. Cohorts of workers may be considered under certain conditions (i.e. arrival date, number of workers, structure of facility etc.) and upon approval by the EOHU.
 - iii. Ensure that arrangements are made for sufficient provision of food, water, masks (non-medical or medical), laundry, linens, a means of communication (internet, phone, television), and personal cleaning and disinfectant supplies (e.g. soap, shampoo, sanitizers with 60-90% alcohol concentration, etc.) for TFWs who are placed under quarantine as per this order. Meals should be nutritious and well-balanced. Employers should try to accommodate any cultural and dietary restrictions for TFWs under quarantine or isolation and ensure food is stored in a safe manner.
 - iv. Ensure all TFWs understand their responsibility to follow public health guidelines and, provide COVID-19 information and educational material to all new TFWs in a language and medium (e.g. visual representations) they understand.
 - v. Ensure TFWs who are under 14-day quarantine can notify the employer if they have any COVID-19 symptoms.
 - vi. Ensure TFWs that are under health unit supervision for case and contact management have ongoing access to communication devices (cellphone or landline) and that this contact information is always available to the public health unit (PHU). Shared communication devices should be disinfected between uses.
 - vii. Ensure any TFWs under quarantine are not working on the farm until they complete their 14-day quarantine or as instructed by the PHU.

- viii. Notify the PHU of any reason the worker may need to leave the farm during the quarantine period, such as to seek medical attention.
5. Ensure all TFWs understand their rights and entitlements, including access to healthcare services and other supports that may be available if a worker becomes sick and is required to self-isolate.
6. Conduct daily (as a minimum) active screening of all workers of the day/shift, including any other person on the farm.
7. Ensure that employees that work on farms are assigned to the same team/group/work pod (cohort) that is separated from other individuals and teams. Within the team/group/work pod, workers should maintain a two-metre physical distance from other workers as best as possible.
8. Ensure that the health unit is contacted for approval of renovations within pre-existing and approved living accommodations that impact floor space, number of faucets, toilets, showers, and/or bathtubs.
9. Ensure that the health unit is contacted if any TFW develops symptoms of COVID-19.
10. Ensure that all known instances of non-compliance, Quarantine Act or isolation requirements are reported immediately to the Eastern Ontario Health Unit.

This Order came into effect at 12:01 a.m. on February 18, 2021, and was amended on July 30, 2021 and will remain in effect until further notice.

Every person to whom this Order is directed is entitled to a hearing by the Health Services Review and Appeal Board (the “**Board**”) if the person mails or delivers to the Medical Officer of Health and to the Board, within fifteen days after a copy of the order is served on the person, notice in writing requiring a hearing. Notice to the Medical Officer of Health shall be mailed or delivered to: Dr. Paul Roumeliotis, Eastern Ontario Health Unit, 1000 Pitt Street, Cornwall, Ontario, K6J 5T1. Notice to the Board shall be mailed or delivered to: Health Services Review and Appeal Board, 151 Bloor Street West, 9th Floor, Toronto, Ontario, M5S 2T5 (telephone: 416-327-8512). Be advised that although a hearing may be requested, this Order takes effect immediately.

Inquiries regarding this Order shall be directed to the Eastern Ontario Health Unit at 613-933-1375, ext. 1201, or by fax at 613-938-9707.

Failure to comply with this Order is an offence to which you are liable on conviction to a fine of not more than \$5000.00 for an individual or \$25,000.00 for a corporation for every day or part of a day on which the offence occurs or continues.

Original copy signed by Dr. Paul Roumeliotis.

Dr. Paul Roumeliotis, MD, CM, MPH, FRCPC(C)
Medical Officer of Health/CEO
Eastern Ontario Health Unit