

**LETTER RESCINDING MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH INSTRUCTIONS  
OF MARCH 22, 2021 TO FOOD AND DRINK ESTABLISHMENTS**

**DATE: April 2, 2021**

**EFFECTIVE: April 3 at 12:01 a.m.**

**TO: All owners, operators and other persons responsible for restaurants, bars, food trucks, concession stands and other food or drink establishments within Halton Region**

Effective Saturday, April 3, 2021 at 12:01, Provincial regulations issued under the *Reopening Ontario (A Flexible Response to COVID-19) Act, 2020* will prohibit the opening of food and/or drink establishments except for the purpose of providing take-out, drive-through or delivery. These new rules will be in effect across Ontario, including in Halton Region, for a period of at least 4 weeks.<sup>1</sup> Given this development, my previously issued instructions are hereby rescinded effective April 3, 2021 at 12:01 a.m.

COVID-19 continues to be present in Halton Region and in Ontario. Halton Region and Ontario have also now experienced outbreaks and community transmission of Variants of Concern (VOCs) of the virus that causes COVID-19 including – importantly – in the restaurant setting. VOCs are associated with higher rates of transmission and with higher rates of serious illness and death from COVID-19. We are therefore facing heightened risks of both more cases, and more serious cases, of COVID-19 throughout Halton Region and across Ontario.

The key risk factors associated with COVID-19 transmission include close contact, closed spaces, crowded places and forceful exhalation. Rigorous adherence to physical distancing and related public health measures is essential to stop/slow the spread of VOCs to the greatest extent possible, reducing the spread of infection and protecting our hospital, public health and broader health system capacity from overwhelming demands. These concerns are driving the current Provincial shutdown.

I acknowledge and thank you for complying with Provincial and local rules and requirements to protect your staff, patrons and the community at large as these have changed through the course of the pandemic.

Please see our website for further information: [halton.ca/COVID19](https://halton.ca/COVID19)



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This letter rescinding instructions shall be posted at: [halton.ca/COVID19](https://halton.ca/COVID19)

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<sup>1</sup> Ontario Regulation 82/20 under the ROA establishes the Rules for Stage 1 in the Shutdown Zone that now apply to Halton: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/emergency-information>