

Letter to the Construction Industry

COVID -19 State of Emergency Response - 2021-01-15

To: All Individuals participating in the Construction Industry,

The Ontario government declared a second, provincial state of emergency in response to COVID-19 under the *Emergency Management and Civic Protection Act*. The declaration of emergency automatically terminates February 11, 2021 – and can be extended.

Under this state of emergency, effective January 14, 2021 construction projects will be halted except those that are deemed essential which include:

1. Construction projects associated with the healthcare sector and long-term care homes.
2. Those ensuring safe and reliable operations (transit, transportation, energy mining).
3. Construction projects that provide new capacity in schools, colleges, universities, municipal infrastructure and child care.
4. Construction of projects under the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program.
5. Projects and services that support the operations of broadband internet and cellular technologies.
6. Residential construction projects where (permits have been issued before January 14, 2021),
 - a building permit has been granted for single family, semi-detached and townhomes (including accessory buildings)
 - the project is a condominium, mixed use or other residential building, or
 - the project involves renovations to residential properties and construction work was started before January 12, 2021.
7. Construction on any project intended to provide either,
 - affordable housing, or
 - shelter or supports for vulnerable persons,

The Township of Lake of Bays Building Department will continue to review and issue any building permits. Under the provincial mandate, construction cannot be started for permits that have been issued on or after January 14, 2021 unless the project falls within the essential list above.

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Required inspections that do continue to meet the Province's essential list will continue to be conducted, subject to COVID-19 safe work practices.

Please note that the above noted conditions do not exempt an individual from rectifying an unsafe condition (including septic systems, or structural failure) during this. Should a municipality place an order on a property, it is the responsibility of the property owner to remedy the situation within the timelines and requirements of the municipality. It will be at the municipality's discretion to determine if a permit is available for the work to be carried out during this time.

Building Services staff are not responsible for confirming what workplaces are essential and communicating only what inspections we are able to complete. These restriction have been put in place through the Provincial government through O.Reg 82/20 *Reopening Ontario (A Flexible Response to COVID-19)*.

As with everything, these directions are subject to changed based on further direction from the Province of Ontario/Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing and/or the OBOA.

Should you have any questions please contact me for more information.

Stephen Watson, CD, CBCO, CMIII
Director of Building/By-law Services
Township of Lake of Bays
swatson@lakeofbays.on.ca
705-635-2272 ext. 225