

**Ministry of
Municipal Affairs
and Housing**

Office of the Minister
777 Bay Street, 17th Floor
Toronto ON M7A 2J3
Tel.: 416 585-7000

**Ministère des
Affaires municipales
et du Logement**

Bureau du ministre
777, rue Bay, 17^e étage
Toronto ON M7A 2J3
Tél. : 416 585-7000



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Dear Head of Council:

For the past two years, you, your council colleagues and municipal staff have been at the forefront of the response to COVID in Ontario. I deeply appreciate your continued collaboration with the province and your inspiring dedication.

Today I am writing to inform you of the status of the emergency orders that were led by my ministry and made in early 2020 under the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act*, and later continued under the *Reopening Ontario Act, 2020*, to help municipalities address some of the challenges brought on by the pandemic.

The Work Deployment Measures for Municipalities Order will end on April 27, 2022

Since April 16, 2020, [O. Reg. 157/20](#), Work Deployment Measures for Municipalities (order) provided municipalities with the flexibility to deploy certain staff to where they were needed most in response to COVID-19 pressures.

The order was a temporary measure and, in line with the province's lifting of public health measures, it will end on April 27, 2022.

Any deployments your municipality has made using the authority in the order will need to end by April 27, 2022. If your municipality is relying on the order to deploy staff, it is important to work collaboratively and in good faith with your bargaining agents to develop staffing plans beyond April 27, 2022.

The Patios Order will end on April 27, 2022

[O. Reg. 345/20](#), Patios, eliminated Planning Act requirements for notice and public meetings and removed the ability to appeal when municipalities passed temporary use by-laws for new or expanded restaurant and bar patios. This allowed municipalities to pass or amend these by-laws quickly to address local circumstances and needs as they evolved.

The order was a temporary measure and, in line with the province's lifting of public health measures, will end on April 27, 2022.

As the order will end on April 27, 2022, your municipality may wish to consider making any necessary changes to temporary use by-laws for restaurant and bar patios prior to this date. Changes were made as part of Bill 13, the *Supporting People and Businesses Act, 2021* in December 2021 to help streamline the planning system and provide municipal councils broader authority to allow more planning decisions to be made by committees of council or staff. Municipalities can now delegate decisions dealing with minor amendments to zoning by-laws, such as temporary use by-laws, should they choose to (and subject to having appropriate official plan policies in place).

Temporary Health or Residential Facilities

[O. Reg 141/20](#) came into effect on April 9, 2020. It has exempted temporary shelters and health facilities, established to respond to the effects of the pandemic, from the requirement to obtain a building permit or a change of use permit under the Building Code Act, from complying with the technical requirements of the Building Code and with certain by-laws and approvals under the Planning Act, subject to certain conditions related to protecting public health and safety.

This order will also end on April 27, 2022. I understand that some of these temporary facilities are still in use to respond to the effects of the pandemic. I intend to make amendments to the Building Code that would continue to exempt these facilities from the need for a building permit and compliance with the Building Code on a temporary basis, while ensuring they continue to be regularly inspected. Your municipality may wish to consider if any new temporary use or zoning by-laws or amendments to existing temporary use or zoning by-laws may be needed before the order ends on April 27, 2022.

There may be other emergency orders that are ending and may impact your municipality. For the latest information, please visit the government's page on [COVID-19 emergency information](#).

If your municipality has any questions about any of the changes outlined above, we encourage your staff to contact [your local Municipal Services Office](#).

Thank you again for your continued support in protecting the health and well-being of Ontarians while delivering the services they depend upon.

Sincerely,



Steve Clark
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

C: Chief Administrative Officers
Municipal Clerks
Kate Manson Smith, Deputy Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Brian Rosborough, Executive Director, Association of Municipalities of Ontario