

## COVID-19 – Frequently Asked Questions in Mississauga

### In regards to COVID-19, what is the City enforcing and who is enforcing it?

The City of Mississauga is following procedures to protect the public from the spread of COVID-19.

The City is enforcing four Emergency Orders under the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act* and continues to enforce City by-laws. In Mississauga, Corporate Security is responsible for enforcing the Orders within parks. The Enforcement Division is responsible for all other locations and is also enforcing against businesses that fail to comply (excluding bars, restaurants and other food premises, which are being addressed by the Region of Peel).

The Government of Ontario has enacted the following orders under the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act*:

- [O.Reg. 52/20 – Organized Public Events, Certain Gatherings \(prohibiting gatherings of 5 or more\)](#)
- [O.Reg. 104/20 – Closure of Outdoor Recreational Amenities \(including sports fields, playgrounds and park benches\)](#)
- [O.Reg. 51/20 – Closure of Establishments \(including libraries, schools, restaurants and indoor recreation facilities\)](#)
- [O.Reg. 82/20 – Closure of Places of Non-Essential Businesses](#)

Enforcement approach:

- Educating residents about Provincial Emergency Orders and City by-laws
- Issuing *Notices of Contravention* as the first step and then issuing tickets to residents and businesses for non-compliance of Provincial Emergency Orders and City by-laws

### Am I allowed to go outside? Will I get a ticket or a fine?

No. You do not need to worry that you will be ticketed if you leave your home. However, Peel Public Health guidelines advise residents to stay at home and only leave your home for essential items/needs or for solo exercise. You can engage in outdoor activities/exercise close to home like walking, running or biking on a trail.

If you need some fresh air or want to exercise, it is okay go outside for a short time while practising physical distancing. Consider these tips:

- Stay close to home
- Go out alone or only with other members of your household
- Keep your distance
- Be aware of others around you
- Walk, bike, jog/run or roller blade
- Walk your dog
- Go outside at times when there are fewer people outdoors, then go straight home

### Do I need to practise physical distancing?

According to Ontario's Medical Officer of Health and Peel Public Health guidelines, everyone should practise physical distancing; reducing exposure to other people outside their household by staying two metres (six feet) away from other people. The City is asking for continued co-operation in following the recommendations made by Ontario's Medical Officer of Health and Peel Public Health. These precautions are necessary to slow the spread of COVID-19.

### I live near a park. Can I use it?

Yes – parks, green space, trails and pathways remain open for walking, cycling or running. However, do not linger, play or use parks as you normally would. You can engage in outdoor activities/exercise close to home.

Mississauga parks have pedestrian access. However, all parking lots are closed to unauthorized vehicles. Please refrain from engaging in any recreational activities in our parking lots. You can still enter the park/trail for activities such as walking, running or biking.

Please stay close to home – you won't have access to a parking lot at our parks or community centres.

Please follow the spirit of the Provincial Orders, City by-laws and Peel Public Health guidelines and physical distancing.

## **Can I invite friends to come over to my house even if we're less than five people?**

With the spread of COVID-19 in Mississauga, it is best to keep all outings to essential purposes only. This includes visiting friends. The City is enforcing gatherings larger than five people in public and private dwellings. It is important to take this seriously to help prevent the spread of the virus.

The Five-Person Order prohibits attendance at:

- An organized public event, including a parade, of more than five people;
- A social gathering of more than five people (even if held in a private home); or
- A gathering of more than five people for the purpose of conducting religious services, rites or ceremonies.

The Five-Person Order does not apply to a gathering of members of a single household. You can go out for a walk with the people you live with, even if there are more than five of you.

A household is not the same as a family. Gatherings of more than five people by members of the same household who are not related (i.e., roommates) are exempt.

City of Mississauga Officers are enforcing this Provincial Emergency Order. Failure to comply with the order can result in a fine of up to \$1,000.

Cancel social gatherings and visits with people you don't live with. This applies to gatherings in public locations as well as at private dwellings. Examples:

- Religious gathering (weekly mass, prayer sessions or religious occasion)
- Parties (birthday, baby shower)
- Playing sports
- Hangouts
- House parties/BBQs
- Social visits
- Play dates

## **Can my kids use the playground at the park?**

No. The provincial government has ordered all recreational facilities in City parks closed, including playgrounds. The Province has not ordered that parks be completely closed, however, the [Parks Order](#) closed a list of recreational facilities and amenities commonly found inside municipal parks. You can continue to walk on paths, trails and other portions of parks that have not otherwise been closed.

The Province did not order walkways and trails closed. Municipalities own their parks and retain the right to completely close them, or close areas that were not covered by the Provincial Parks Order.

The Order includes recreation amenities on school board properties. Failure to comply with the prohibition of use of such amenities on school board properties may result in residents being fined and/or receiving a trespass notice which is enforceable by police. Residents are requested to refrain from congregating or playing on, or otherwise using, any school board property.

## **Am I allowed to play in an empty Community Centre parking lot (e.g., rollerblade, throw a frisbee)?**

No. All City facility parking lots are closed to unauthorized vehicles. These lots include those at community centres, libraries and parks where feasible. They are not to be used as play or hangout areas. Parking lot entrances, where possible, are barricaded. The public is allowed to walk through parking lots to get to park trails and walking paths but playing in them is restricted.

At this time, pedestrians are permitted to enter closed parking lots so long as they are not violating the Five-Person Order. City of Mississauga Officers are patrolling these areas and educating residents on why they can't park in municipal parking lots. If cars are parked in these lots, City Officers will enforce the Traffic (Parking) By-law and will ticket and tow.

If you are asked to leave a closed park amenity and do not do so when asked, you can be fined for failing to leave the premise under the authority of the Trespass to Property Act.

## **My neighbours just got back from vacation. I have seen them leaving their house to go grocery shopping. Shouldn't they be in self-quarantine?**

Under the Government of Canada's [Quarantine Order](#) – travellers returning to Canada must immediately go into self-isolation for 14 days to minimize the risk of exposure. While the City is unable to enforce these measures, the Government of Canada can.

Non-compliance with this Order could lead to fines and/or prison time and enforcement is a federal responsibility led by the RCMP. If you would like to report someone not following the Order within Mississauga, please call Peel Regional Police at 905-453-3311 or file a report online at [PeelPolice.ca/ReportIt](https://www.peel.ca/ReportIt).

## **I just finished my walk. Am I allowed to sit on a park bench to rest?**

No. The provincial government has ordered all recreational facilities in City parks closed, including park benches. City of Mississauga Officers are enforcing this Provincial Emergency Order. Failure to comply with the Order can result in a fine of up to \$1,000.

The [Parks Order](#) closed a list of recreational facilities and amenities commonly found inside municipal parks. You can continue to walk on paths, trails and other portions of parks that have not otherwise been closed. City facilities/amenities that are closed to the public include:

- Beaches
- Sports Courts and multi-use fields (tennis, basketball, pickleball)
- Play structures/playgrounds/ swings/slides
- Park benches, picnic shelters and pavillions
- Spray pads
- Outdoor fitness equipment
- BMX parks/Skateboard parks
- Community gardens
- Sports fields (baseball, soccer, cricket, football, rugby, golf courses)
- Off-leash dog areas/parks

## **My kids are going stir crazy, can I take them to the park?**

Yes – parks, green space, trails and pathways remain open for walking, cycling or running. However, don't hang around, play or use parks as you normally would. You can engage in outdoor activities/exercise close to home.

The City is asking for continued co-operation in following the recommendations of Peel Public Health. These precautions are necessary to slow the spread of COVID-19. Peel Public Health advises residents to stay home and only leave your home for essential items or for solo exercise.

You can use our City parks to walk through on the trails but we ask that you not:

- Play sports/games
- Relax in a field
- Have a picnic
- Chat on the benches
- Play catch/throw a Frisbee
- Play in an empty parking lot
- Workout in a park
- Do not linger around, play or use parks as you normally would.

Please remember that the provincial government has ordered all recreational facilities in City parks closed. City of Mississauga Officers are enforcing this Provincial Emergency Order. Failure to comply with the Order can result in a fine of up to \$1,000.

The Province has not ordered that parks be completely closed, however, the [Parks Order](#) closed a list of recreational facilities and amenities commonly found inside municipal parks. People can continue to walk on paths, trails and other portions of parks that have not otherwise been closed. City facilities/amenities that are closed to the public include:

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- Community gardens
- Sports fields (baseball, soccer, cricket, football, rugby, golf courses)
- Off-leash dog areas/parks

The [Parks Order](#) includes recreation amenities on school board properties. Failure to comply with the prohibition of use of such amenities on school board properties may result in residents being fined and/or receiving a trespass notice which is enforceable by police. Residents are requested to refrain from congregating or playing on, or otherwise using, any school board property.

**My dog has been cooped up at home. I'd like to let him run around – can I take him to one of the City's leash free parks?**

The provincial government has ordered all recreational facilities in City parks closed, including leash-free parks. Anyone not complying with the Order will be fined. You can take your dog for short walks as long as they are on a leash.

Peel Public Health guidelines advise residents to stay home and only leave your home for essential items or for solo exercise, like walking your dog.

**The garbage bins at the park are full. Is it okay to leave my bagged dog waste beside it for Parks staff to pick up?**

No. Leaving dog waste beside a waste bin, on the ground or in a tree is littering and you will be fined \$365. Pick up your dog waste, bag it and throw it out in our waste bin or dog waste bins. If the bin is full, please take it home and dispose of it there.

**It's cherry blossom season at Kariya Park, am I allowed to go there?**

No. The City has made the decision to close the facility entirely to the public to avoid the spread of COVID-19 and limit the amount of visitors during the cherry blossom period.

The City is offering a live feed where residents can view the cherry blossoms online beginning today until their petals start to fall, as the trees only stay in bloom for approximately two weeks. To view them bloom live, visit [mississauga.ca/cherryblossomwebcam](http://mississauga.ca/cherryblossomwebcam).

**My neighbour is having a BBQ in her backyard with her friends. Isn't that going against the Provincial Order? Who do I call to report this?**

People who live in the same household can have a BBQ together in their own backyard. However, gatherings of more than five people not from the same household is a violation of a Provincial Order – call 311 to report.

**I noticed that my local neighbourhood salon is open. Is it okay to go and get my haircut?**

No. Non-essential businesses such as hair salons were ordered closed by the provincial government on April 4, 2020. City of Mississauga Officers are enforcing this Provincial Emergency Order. Failure to comply with the order can result in a fine of up to \$1,000.

You can call 311 to report all other non-essential businesses that are open in Mississauga.

**I live in a high-rise complex with all common areas blocked off. Where can I go to get some fresh air?**

Peel Public Health guidelines advise residents to stay at home and only leave their home for essential items or for solo exercise.

You can use our City parks to walk through on the trails. They are not to be used for activities such as playing sports, having a picnic, resting on a bench, playing in an empty parking lot or relaxing in a field.

Consider these tips:

- Stay close to home
- Go out alone or only with other members of your household
- Practise physical distancing

**I'd like to have my lawn cut. Can I hire a landscaping company?**

Yes. According to Ontario Regulation 82/20 (the Essential Businesses Order), "maintenance, repair and property management services strictly necessary to manage and maintain the safety, security, sanitation and essential operation of institutional, commercial, industrial and residential properties and buildings are permitted.

Essential services can include turf maintenance (mowing, fertilizing, seeding, weeding, aeration), removal of invasive species, tree maintenance and removals.

Non-essential services include horticulture (planting) and other services for aesthetic purposes only.

### **My pool needs to be opened. Can I hire a pool company to come clean it?**

Yes. According to Ontario Regulation 82/20 (the Essential Businesses Order), “maintenance, repair and property management services strictly necessary to manage and maintain the safety, security, sanitation and essential operation of institutional, commercial, industrial and residential properties and buildings are permitted.

Essential services can include:

- Pool openings and/or liner repairs/replacement in order to sanitize water, prevent stagnant water from pooling and to prevent the breeding of insects to reduce the risk of West Nile Virus.
- Repair/Replacement of pool equipment that is required to circulate and sanitize pool/spa water – filters, pumps, water lines, gas lines, electrical panels.
- Repair of pool sump pumps required to divert rain water.

### **My fence is broken. Can I hire a fencing company to repair it?**

Yes. According to Ontario Regulation 82/20 (the Essential Businesses Order), “maintenance, repair and property management services strictly necessary to manage and maintain the safety, security, sanitation and essential operation of institutional, commercial, industrial and residential properties and buildings are permitted.

Essential services can include fence and gate repairs that are required for safety and security of property, e.g.: Pool enclosures, preventing encroachment of animals, pests, rodents.

### **My roof is leaking and it needs to be repaired. Can I hire a roofer to fix the roof?**

Yes. According to Ontario Regulation 82/20 (the Essential Businesses Order), “maintenance, repair and property management services strictly necessary to manage and maintain the safety, security, sanitation and essential operation of institutional, commercial, industrial and residential properties and buildings are permitted.

Essential services can include safety related roof repairs including repairs of missing shingles and/or damaged trusses of an existing roof to protect against the elements and/or animals.

Non-essential services include roof replacement for aesthetic purposes.

### **I know of a business that is open that is considered non-essential. They are also not adhering to physical distancing – who can I report this to?**

Residents who wish to report non-compliant businesses that are bars, restaurants and other food premises can contact Peel Public Health at 905-799-7700 or Caledon 905-584-2216.

Residents who wish to report any other non-compliant businesses can call 311.

For businesses not managing/providing appropriate physical distancing measures (and other health guidelines) for customers – i.e., lineups, crowd management, please call 311.

Residents who wish to report any employer/employee complaints or other matters related occupational health and safety should contact the Ministry of Labour at 1-877-202-0008.

#### **Reporting a non-compliant food establishment**

Call Peel Public Health 905-799-7700. Food establishments include:

- Bar
- Restaurant
- Other businesses like grocery stores, convenience stores, discount and big box retailers selling groceries, restaurants (take-out, drive-through and delivery service only), beer and wine and liquor stores.