



COVID-19 Class Order June 30, 2020

What is a class order?

A class order is a legal order that enables KFL&A Public Health to enforce self-isolation requirements for a person or class of persons that it applies to. These efforts are being made to protect the local community from potential exposure to COVID-19.

Under what authority did KFL&A Public Health issue a class order related to the COVID-19 outbreak to require persons to self-isolate?

The Health Protection and Promotion Act authorizes the Medical Officer of Health to make a class order to address the risks presented by the potential spread of COVID-19 to residents of the KFL&A region.

Why did the Medical Officer of Health issue this class order?

As restrictions begin to loosen at the provincial and local levels, more people will be out in the community and it is therefore more important than ever to ensure that those who need to self-isolate do so, for the protection of all residents.

The class order was issued to strengthen KFL&A Public Health's ability to reduce the risk of people contracting COVID-19 in the KFL&A region. This is a targeted mandatory measure that will strengthen our ability to reduce the loss of life from COVID-19, and preserve and protect the capacity of our health care system to respond and to provide care for those who need it.

While most people who have or may have COVID-19, as well as their close contacts, have been compliant with instructions from public health authorities to self-isolate, there are individuals who do not take these measures seriously enough or whose life circumstances make it difficult to comply. This class order is a legal tool to help us ensure that everyone who needs to self-isolate, complies with that direction.

Who is required to self-isolate under this class order?

All individuals residing in or present in the KFL&A region who:

- a. are identified as a person diagnosed with COVID-19,
- b. have the signs or symptoms of COVID-19, have similar signs or symptoms, or who have tested for COVID-19 and are awaiting results,
- c. otherwise have reasonable grounds to believe they have symptoms of COVID-19, or
- d. are a close contact of a person identified in (a) or by KFL&A Public Health.

A close contact is a person who is caring for or living in the same household with someone who has COVID-19 or is otherwise identified as a close contact by KFL&A Public Health.

When is the class order effective? How long must people self-isolate?

The order is effective on June 30, 2020 and will remain in effect until such time as the Medical Officer of Health determines it is no longer required.

Self-isolation is generally for a period of 14 days from the first onset of symptom(s) from testing or from diagnosis with COVID-19, whichever is earliest, and provided the individual does not have a fever and their other symptom(s) are improving on the fourteenth day. In some cases, public health officials may direct an individual to extend the period of isolation, depending upon symptoms and test results.

Are there any exceptions?

Yes, modifications to the class order can be made for the following people:

- a person who, in the opinion of the Medical Officer of Health, provides an essential service, for the limited purpose of providing that essential service,
- a person receiving essential medical services or treatments, whether related to COVID-19 or not, or
- where a person's isolation, in the opinion of the Medical Officer of Health, would not be in the public interest.

What does it mean to self-isolate under the class order?

Individuals who are affected by the class order are required to stay at home. If a person with COVID-19 is homeless, or where their home is otherwise unsuitable or unsafe for isolation purposes, they will be accommodated in an isolation facility.

Self-isolation means not leaving home at all or having any visitors except as permitted by KFL&A Public Health (e.g., where a health care worker is visiting the home). People in self-isolation should arrange to have groceries and other necessities delivered to them.

What should I do if my illness gets worse while I am self-isolating?

Seek immediate medical attention if your illness is worsening (e.g., you are having difficulty breathing) by calling 9-1-1. Tell them of your COVID-19 diagnosis or symptom(s) and answer all screening questions accurately (including symptoms and travel history) so that you will receive appropriate care and the right infection prevention and control precautions are taken.

How could the class order be enforced if a person fails to self-isolate?

Individuals who are required to self-isolate, as identified under this class order, and who do not do so can be charged and fined up to \$5,000.00 per day. Police assistance can be ordered for individuals who do not willingly comply.

Can a person challenge the class order?

Individuals identified in the class may challenge the order by appealing to the Health Services Appeal and Review Board.

Contact information for the Health Services Appeal and Review Board can be found at: <http://www.hsarb.on.ca/scripts/english/contact.asp>

How does the Medical Officer of Health's class order under the Health Protection and Promotion Act differ from the federal order under the Quarantine Act?

The federal government's quarantine order was aimed at all travellers entering Canada, effective March 25th, 2020. That order also imposes a 14 day home quarantine on travellers regardless of whether they have symptoms of COVID-19. For more information, see: kflaph.ca/Coronavirus.

The federal government order also provides some limited exceptions to self-quarantine, including individuals providing essential services, such as health care workers. Federal Public Health Officers can also detain and isolate persons who exhibit symptoms of COVID-19 when they first enter the country.

In some cases, individuals subject to home quarantine or isolation measures under the federal quarantine order, may also be subject to the order issued by KFL&A Public Health's Medical Officer of Health (e.g., individuals who are diagnosed with COVID-19 and have also recently returned from travel).