

The following message has been authorized by Tanya Rowell, CEO of the Public Service Commission

- Please convey this message to any employees who do not have computer access -

This week marks one year of COVID-19 in Prince Edward Island, and we acknowledge it's been an extremely challenging year, and all have made many sacrifices. Your commitment to adhering to public health guidance has played a significant role in getting us to where we are today. A huge shout out and thank you for all you have done and continue to do to keep you, your family, your colleagues and Islanders safe while ensuring seamless service delivery. Together, we have overcome and achieved a great deal, and we can take comfort in knowing there are better days ahead.

Today, our Chief Public Health Officer, Dr. Heather Morrison, announced eased public health restrictions for Prince Edward Island (<https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/news/eased-public-health-restrictions-announced-pei>). Beginning Saturday, March 13 at 8:00 a.m., the following measures will be in place until mid-April:

- **Personal gatherings**
 - Each household can gather with up to ten individuals indoors or outdoors, with physical distancing. These individuals should be as consistent as possible.
- **Organized gatherings:**
- **Concerts, worship services, and movie theatres** are permitted to operate with a limit of 50 people. Three additional groups of 50 (200 total) are permitted with an approved operational plan.
- **Weddings (ceremonies and receptions) and funerals** can have up to 50 people, plus officiants, and are not eligible for multiple cohorts.
 - **Recreational activities:**
- **Gyms/fitness facilities, museums and libraries** may operate if physical distancing and other public health measures are followed, and group activities follow gathering limits.
- **Organized recreation and team sports** may resume following gathering limits with enhanced attention to records for contact tracing.
 - **Businesses and NGOs:**
- **Retail stores, markets and craft fairs** may operate if physical distancing and other public health measures are maintained.
- **In-person consumption of food and drink at restaurants and bars** can have a maximum table size of 10 and must close by 12:00 am. There is a limit of 50 people in these establishments, with an additional three groups of 50 permitted with an approved operational plan.
 - **Child care**
 - **Unlicensed and licensed childcare centres** will continue to operate at 100% capacity.
 - **Health care**
 - All health care services and health care providers may continue to operate as normal.
 - **Long term care**
 - Residents will continue to have up to three partners in care and designated visitors.
 - **Education and training**
- Full time classroom learning for K-12 with public health measures in place.
- Post-secondary education and training through online and/or in-person learning with public health measures in place.

March Break

Please ensure your March Break plans adhere to all CPHO guidance. Avoid large gatherings and ensure physical distancing at all times with those outside of your household. This beautiful weather provides a great opportunity to enjoy outdoor activities like hiking, skiing, and sledding. Have fun!

Monitor for Symptoms

All employees must self-monitor for [symptoms](#) of COVID-19 and report to their Manager immediately if they have concerns about possible COVID-19 exposure or symptoms. Anyone who develops symptoms of COVID-19 at work must immediately perform hand hygiene, report to their Manager, avoid contact with staff, leave as soon as it is safe

to do so and visit a Drop-In Testing Clinic. Managers should then consult with their HR Manager on the next steps. **If Public Health has advised that you need to be [tested](#) and [self-isolate](#)**, you should arrange to get tested and contact your Manager as soon as possible. Managers should then consult with their HR Manager on appropriate next steps.

Information on testing clinics can be found at <https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/information/health-and-wellness/covid-19-testing-pei>.

Please continue to adhere to the following measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the workplace:

- Stay home when ill. Anyone experiencing any symptoms should contact their family physician, nurse practitioner, call 8-1-1 or visit a COVID-19 Drop-In Testing Clinic.
- Screen all clients and visitors before entry using the **screening tool** at <https://psc.gpei.ca/sites/psc.gpei.ca/files/PDF%20Files/COVIDScreeningToolNov24%2C2020.pdf>.
- Please adhere to the **Civil Service Mask Protocol** at <https://psc.gpei.ca/sites/psc.gpei.ca/files/MaskProtocol19Nov2020.pdf> and ensure clients and other visitors are advised of mask expectations before their arrival.
- Ensure physical distancing (2m/6ft) at all times in your workplace and in common areas such as elevators, hallways, boardrooms, stairs, lunchrooms, etc.
- Wash your hands and avoid touching your face with unwashed hands, cover your cough or sneeze with tissues or your sleeve, and ensure enhanced cleaning of commonly touched surfaces.
- Download the free national [COVID Alert app](#), which will let you know if you have been exposed to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19.
- Stay informed by checking www.princeedwardisland.ca/covid19 regularly for updates from the Chief Public Health Office.

Your **Employee Assistance Program (EAP)** is confidential, and counsellors can be reached at (902) 368-5738 or toll-free at [1-800-239-3826](tel:1-800-239-3826) or by email at eap@gov.pe.ca. For more information, please visit <https://psc.gpei.ca/employee-assistance-program>.

If you have any questions or require more information, please don't hesitate to reach out to your Manager or HR Manager.

I would like to again thank you all for your dedication, cooperation, flexibility and innovation throughout this time. Let's keep going, we're getting closer to that finish line!

Have a great weekend,

Tanya