

Daily Update – 7 January 2021

Quebec imposes curfew as part of 4-week lockdown

The Quebec government is imposing an overnight curfew and extending the closure of non-essential businesses for a month in an effort to slow the spread of COVID-19.

Premier François Legault said the stricter measures, which he described as "shock therapy," will begin Saturday. Many of them will be in place for four weeks, until Feb. 8.

The measures include:

- A provincewide curfew from 8 p.m. to 5 a.m., the first of its kind in Canada during the pandemic. There will be exceptions for essential workers and dog walkers near their home. The fine for breaking curfew will be \$1,000 to \$6,000. ([More on the curfew here](#))
- All non-essential workplaces and businesses, including gyms and restaurants, will be closed. Curbside pickup at stores and delivery for restaurants will be allowed.
- Places of worship must close.
- Daycares will stay open. Elementary schools will open as planned on Jan. 11, but children in Grades 5 and 6 will be required to wear a mask.
- High schools will remain closed for another week, opening Jan. 18. High school students and staff will be supplied with two government-issued three-layer disposal paper medical masks per day.
- Grocery stores and corner stores must close at 7:30 p.m.
- Indoor and outdoor gatherings with people outside the household are prohibited.

Unlike during the lockdown in the spring, Legault said manufacturing and construction will not be shut down, but he asked them to concentrate on work and goods that are considered "essential."

New federal rule on COVID-19 tests for air passengers in effect

Starting Thursday, all travellers returning to Canada by air from abroad must produce evidence of a negative COVID-19 test before boarding their flights.

As of midnight, every traveller over the age of five must show a negative test result from a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) or a reverse transcription loop-mediated isothermal amplification (RT-LAMP) test administered in the 72 hours before their flight's departure. Some temporary exemptions have been introduced for travellers from St. Pierre and Miquelon and Haiti.

The test must be conducted before boarding the plane, in the flight's country of origin. Other types of tests — such as rapid antigen tests — will not be accepted. The government has directed airlines to turn away travellers who do not present a test result at the time of boarding.

To account for PCR testing limitations in some countries, travellers departing from the Caribbean or South America can use tests conducted within 96 hours of departure (instead of 72 hours) until Jan. 14.

The testing requirement is in addition to the existing mandatory 14-day quarantine period for returning travellers. The travel restrictions on most foreign nationals also remain in place.

Ontario extends online learning for some elementary students until Jan. 25

The provincial government says it is extending online learning for elementary students in southern Ontario until Jan. 25.

That aligns with the date secondary students signed up for in-person learning in those regions are scheduled to return to class.

Meanwhile, elementary students and secondary students in the seven northern Ontario public health unit regions, will return to in-person learning on Jan. 11 as planned, the province said in a news release.

P.E.I. will not rejoin Atlantic bubble until at least Jan. 25

With COVID-19 numbers soaring around the world and uncertainty around the movement of people during the Christmas holidays continuing, P.E.I. Premier Dennis King says the Island will not rejoin the Atlantic bubble next week.

On Nov. 24, P.E.I. suspended its participation in the bubble, which allowed freer movement around Atlantic Canada while the regional number of cases stayed low.

The suspension is being reviewed every two weeks. Most recently, the province had left open the possibility of rejoining the bubble on Jan. 11, but speaking at the regular weekly briefing Tuesday morning, King pushed that date until at least Jan. 25.