

## ONTARIO PROHIBITS ALCOHOL SALES AT BARS, RESTAURANTS AFTER 11 P.M., ORDERS STRIP CLUBS TO CLOSE

Ontario Health Minister Christine Elliott said on Thursday that the province's investment into COVID-19 testing will "significantly expand" testing capacity, as well as improve access and reduce wait times. She added they will also be hiring more contact tracers to "further expand our efforts to quickly identify potential cases."

The Ontario government is prohibiting restaurants, bars and other food and drink businesses from selling alcohol after 11 p.m. and ordering all strip clubs to close across the province.

The order will go into effect 12:01 a.m. Saturday and will also require food and drink establishments to close by 12 a.m. and remain closed until 5 a.m., except for delivery and takeout.

Alcohol consumption will also be prohibited at all food and drink businesses across the province between 12 a.m. and 9 a.m.

Read more: Ontario reports 409 new coronavirus cases, almost half recorded in Toronto

"As the number of cases have continued to rise, it is evident that despite the tremendous efforts of Ontarians, further action is required to prevent

the spread of the virus," Ontario health minister and deputy premier Christine Elliott said in a statement.

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"On the advice of Ontario's public health officials, we are moving forward with these measures to help keep Ontarians safe by limiting the potential for exposure in locations where the current risk of transmission is higher and to avoid future lockdowns."

Ontario will also require businesses and organizations to comply with any advice, recommendations and instructions that have been issued by Ontario's office of the chief medical officer of health on COVID-19 screening, including screening people who are looking to enter their property.

At a press conference Friday, Elliott said the new measures are designed to address an increase in community transmission, to keep schools, post-secondary institutions and businesses open, and to protect Ontario's most vulnerable.

"The vast majority of restaurant owners, they have been responsible," Ontario Premier Doug Ford said at the press conference.

"There have been outbreaks

with staff members ... and it's precautionary. We have to be careful."

According to Ford, some Ontario mayors were concerned about bars, restaurants, nightclubs and strip clubs.

"There's quite a few mayors concerned, along with the local chief medical officers," the Ontario premier said. "It's just another step that we can put in place that will slow down the spread of COVID." Story continues below advertisement

The orders come as Ontario continues to see a high number of COVID-19 cases. On Friday, the province reported 409 new coronavirus cases. In five of the last seven days, the province has reported cases in the 400s.

The Ontario government said private social gatherings are a "significant source" of COVID-19 transmission in many communities across the province, in addition to outbreak clusters at restaurants, bars and other food and drink establishments.

The province said its chief medical health officer and other health experts are monitoring the COVID-19 situation to see if public health measures need to be tightened.

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## AFTER YEARS OF SUCCESS DRPS K9 UNIT CALENDAR DRAWS TO A CLOSE

After six years of record sales and more than a quarter of a million dollars raised for local charities, the DRPS K-9 Unit has made the difficult decision to not produce a 2021 calendar.

DRPS is proud of the hard work and dedication of the K-9 team that created this calendar. Hours of volunteer time went into its success. However, due to the amount of time that goes into production and sales, the team has decided that the 2020 calendar would be the last.

In 2014, the first K-9 calendar was produced and received overwhelming support from the community. The initiative raised \$25,000 for charities. More money was raised each year with \$63,000 being raised in 2019. The 2020 total will be announced at the Police Services Board meeting on Wednesday, October 21.

During the past six years, the K-9 charity calendar has donated money to TAGS, the Alzheimer's Society Durham, Epilepsy Durham Region, the Charles H Best Diabetes Centre and Autism Ontario.

The K-9 Unit would like to thank everyone in the community who has supported its efforts. They would also like to thank the media for helping to promote the charity calendar and the many businesses who helped increase the sales year over year, including Canadian Tire Bowmanville and Conte Jaswal Personal Injury Lawyers.

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