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Ontario Dental Hygienists' Association

**COVID-19
Update**

April 27, 2020 update

Today, the provincial government revealed a framework for reopening the economy across Ontario after the shutdown due to COVID-19.

The framework outlines how the province will reopen, not when. The framework has three stages, without specific business particulars. The government will consider factors such as the risk of the spread of COVID-19 and the ability to implement protective measures to keep workplaces safe, providing clear public health guidance to employers. Specific thresholds and targets will need to be met before advancing to the next stage.

- **Stage 1:** For businesses that were ordered to close or restrict operations, opening select workplaces that can immediately modify operations to meet public health guidance. Opening some outdoor spaces like parks and allowing for a greater number of individuals to attend some events. Hospitals would also begin to offer some non-urgent and scheduled surgeries, and other health care services.
- **Stage 2:** Opening more workplaces, based on risk assessments, which may include some service industries and additional office and retail workplaces. Some larger public gatherings would be allowed, and more outdoor spaces would open.
- **Stage 3:** Opening of all workplaces responsibly and further relaxing of restrictions on public gatherings.

ODHA is advocating and working collaboratively with all oral health regulatory colleges to ensure best practices and guidelines are in place, safeguarding personnel and preparing for when Ontario dental hygienists return to work.

Read the full provincial government news release [here](#).

To increase accessibility, COVID-19 email communications will be posted on the [COVID-19 update page](#) on the ODHA website.