

MEMBER BULLETIN

March 17, 2020

Update on COVID-19

The COVID-19 situation is rapidly evolving. This morning at 8:30 am, Premier Ford announced a State of Emergency in Ontario. For coverage, please see: [CBC](#) and the [Provincial Newsroom](#).

Premier Ford made it clear that **this is not a provincial shutdown**, but a tool to divert financial and personnel resources to address COVID-19 and contains its spread.

This announcement means the following:

- Construction sites may remain open.
- There is focus on Ontario's supply chain and keeping it open and operating with a focus on essential goods including health care items, groceries, etc.
- There was a call for federal partners to expand EI and reduce qualifications to ensure more workers can access EI benefits when affected by COVID-19.
- Phase-one of the COVID-19 relief package (earmarked at \$300 million) was announced and it will target support for health care, as well as Ontario's businesses. More details are expected to come in the next few days and with the release of the Economic Statement next Wednesday.
- The Province will continue to meet and consult with the Chief Medical Officer as this situation is now evolving hourly.

IHSA has developed a new safety talk addressing COVID-19 for the sites, see the link below.

https://www.ihsa.ca/pdfs/safety_talks/covid-19.pdf

They also have set up a resources page on COVID-19 to assist contractors at this time:

<https://www.ihsa.ca/alerts/COVID-19>

We will continue to update members as more information develops. If you have any questions please contact Patrick McManus (905-629-7766 ext. 222 or patrick.mcmanus@oswca.org).