As you all must have heard by now, it is true, Hamilton is going back into lockdown on Monday.  But it will look different that past GREY ZONEs.  Read below on how your particular business will be impacted by the changes.

# Hamilton to lock down on Monday

By [**Katrina Clarke**](https://www.thespec.com/authors.clarke_katrina.html)Spectator Reporter

Fri., March 26, 2021

Hamilton is going back into lockdown.

The province announced Friday that Hamilton will be moving into the [COVID-19](https://www.thespec.com/news/canada/coronavirus.html) grey-lockdown zone, up from the less restrictive red zone, effective first thing Monday morning.

“Over the last week, we have continued to see some concerning trends in key health indicators in regions across the province,” said Health Minister Christine Elliott in a release. “As we cautiously make targeted adjustments to public health measures to support the well-being of individuals and small business owners, it is critical that everyone remains vigilant and continues to strictly follow all public health measures and advice to keep each other safe.”

The news comes just days after Hamilton’s medical officer of health said she [did not think](https://www.thespec.com/news/hamilton-region/2021/03/24/covid-hamilton-lockdown-latest-news.html) it was necessary to move the city alone into lockdown.

“Decisions were made in consultation with the local medical officers of health and are based on the trends in public health indicators and local context and conditions,” the province’s release stated.

The province says that from March 15 to 22, Hamilton’s case rate increased by 37.6 per cent, to 109.4 cases per 100,000 people. Within the past week, the positivity rate has hit 4.6 per cent, “above the high-alert threshold of 2.5 per cent.”

Other regions changing zones are Eastern Ontario Health Unit and Timiskaming Health Unit. Both are moving into red.

It seems there will be no changes to schools.

“There’s been no Ministerial Order or direction from Hamilton Public Health Services to move schools to remote learning as we move into the Grey – Lockdown,” confirmed Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board spokesperson Shawn McKillop. “This decision does not impact schools as they will continue to operate.”

**What’s new?**

Also Friday, the province loosened the restrictions on what is not permissible in the grey zone, stating that “if passed,” the following will be allowed:

- Effective Monday, the capacity limits for weddings, funerals, and religious services, rites or ceremonies will change to “allow for the number of individuals that can maintain two metres of physical distance.” The updated capacity rules do not apply to “social gatherings associated with these services such as receptions.”

- Effective Monday, a maximum of 10 people will be allowed to participate in outdoor fitness classes, outdoor training for team and individual sports and outdoor personal training.

- Effective Monday, marinas and boating clubs will be allowed to operate “clubhouses or any restaurant, bar and other food or drink establishment for outdoor dining,” subject to public health and workplace safety measures.

- Effective April 12, personal care services, including but not limited to, barber shops, hair and nail salons and tattoo and “body art” shops, will be permitted to “operate at limited capacity on an appointment basis only.”

**Other rules in lockdown**

According to the [province’s framework](https://www.ontario.ca/page/covid-19-response-framework-keeping-ontario-safe-and-open?gclid=CjwKCAjw9MuCBhBUEiwAbDZ-7gEHX9vGO2tjj10IrPDbBF5ArJHvBe-XTZ43BcNrDDqpw6r0hjThHhoCu1wQAvD_BwE&gclsrc=aw.ds#grey), the following are the rules for those in the grey-lockdown zone:

- No indoor social gatherings are allowed, but people who live alone can have “exclusive, close contact with another household to help reduce the negative impacts of social isolation”;

- Just 10 people can gather outdoors, remaining physically distant;

- Capacity limits for indoor religious services and ceremonies, including wedding services and funeral services — but not receptions — in all venues, where physical distancing can be maintained is 15 per cent of the capacity of the room;

**-** Indoor dining is banned but takeout and outdoor dining — including on patios — is allowed;

- Bars and restaurants can open at 5 a.m. and must close by 10 p.m. and alcohol can only be sold between 9 a.m. and 9 p.m., dancing, singing and live music is banned;

- Retail stores can remain open for in-person shopping, operating at 25 per cent capacity maximum;

- Grocery stores can operate at 50 per cent capacity;

- Facilities for indoor or outdoor sports and recreational fitness activities must close with the exception of “The sole use of high performance athletes including parasport athletes, and specified professional leagues (for example, NHL, CFL, MLS, NBA)” and “Specified purposes (for example, day camps, child care)”;

- Outdoor recreational amenities such as ice rinks, ski hills and snow trails, can remain open with restrictions (for example, no team sports);

- Community centres and multi-purpose facilities, such as the YMCA, are allowed to be open for permitted activities (for example, child care services, day camps, social services).

*More to come ...*

Best regards,

Cristina Geissler

Executive Director

Concession Street BIA

Hamilton will be rolling back to the Grey Zone on Monday March 29th at 12:01a.m. Here are some additional resources. The rules in grey have changed in the last few weeks so we encourage everyone to familiarize themselves with this information.

<https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/60897/ontario-moving-two-regions-to-new-levels-in-the-covid-19-response-framework>

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/covid-19-response-framework-keeping-ontario-safe-and-open>

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/resources-prevent-covid-19-workplace>

I’ve also included the newsletter the Chamber sent out at 2PM this afternoon

I hope this info helps....

Stay strong Concession Street.

Please let me know if I can be of any help - if I don't have the answers I will do my best to get that info to you.

