NEW ONTARIO CRITERIA FOR COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS

November 4, 2020

Yesterday, the Province released new criteria for COVID-19 public health restrictions. However, Toronto will remain in modified Stage 2 until at least November 14 at the request of Mayor Tory.

It is possible that when Toronto transitions out of modified Stage 2, additional Toronto-specific restrictions will be put in place. We will provide an update on those details when they have been released.

The Province’s new, five-level system includes specific health benchmarks and restrictions for each new level and is outlined here: [LINK]. Some points of note are included below:

THE PATH
- The Restrict level (which Toronto may enter after November 14) requires screening of customers at entrances to malls. The guidance does not specify if screening should be active or passive. Properties have already posted COVID-19 screening notices at all entrances and between properties. In the absence of guidance requiring active screening, we consider this to be sufficient, unless otherwise advised by legal counsel or enforcement.

ADDITIONAL HIGHLIGHTS
- All stages continue to require physical distancing and masks in indoor spaces.
- The requirement for workplace screening remains in place for all levels.
- All levels up to Lockdown allow restaurants and gyms to remain open with limits on indoor capacity at most levels.
- The operating and liquor serving hours at bars and restaurants will be limited in some levels.

If you have questions, please contact Patrick Burke, the Communications Manager at pburke@torontofinancialdistrict.com.

CafeTO UPDATE
City Council approved an extension to the CafeTO program on sidewalks until April 14, 2021. Council also approved a temporary use zoning by-law which expands permissions for outdoor patios on private property until May 25, 2021 with restrictions around tents and heaters. A consolidated Winter CafeTO Guidebook outlining programming requirements and other details necessary for safe and accessible installations of temporary patios on sidewalks will be made available in the coming days and area properties will be notified of changes.

If you have questions, please contact Alicia Callaghan, the Planning and Advocacy Manager at acallaghan@torontofinancialdistrict.com.

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With a mandate to promote economic development in the Financial District, the Financial District BIA represents the area on issues of transportation access, economic competitiveness and collaborative planning and investment. Follow @MyTOFD for daily updates about the area.