

	CANADA	BC	ALBERTA	SASKATCHEWAN	MANITOBA	ONTARIO	QUEBEC	ATLANTIC
Number of Confirmed Cases as of May 1st	55,061	2145	5573	415	279	16,608	27,538	NS – 959 (865) NB – 118 (118) PEI – 27 (26) Nfld – 259 (257)
<i>(represents cases last reported on April 25th)</i>	<i>(45,354)</i>	<i>(1948)</i>	<i>(4233)</i>	<i>(349)</i>	<i>(267)</i>	<i>(13,995)</i>	<i>(23,267)</i>	

Jurisdiction	Major New Actions Taken April 26-May 1 st
CANADA	<p>Major Government of Canada Announcements and news related to COVID-19 include:</p> <p>Government launches applications for the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS): On April 27th, the application process for the CEWS was launched. “Employers can apply for the CEWS through My Business Account or through the CRA’s online application portal, and their representatives can apply through Represent a Client. All claims that are approved through the CRA’s automated verification process will be sent for payment on May 5, so that payments being made through direct deposit should begin to appear in employers’ accounts as of May 7.”</p> <p>Prime Minister releases joint statement by First Ministers for restarting the economy: The Prime Minister and First Ministers released a statement and have agreed on a common principles for restarting the Canadian economy based on expert advice. The statement identifies the criteria that need to be in place before the reopening of provinces and territories. The criteria and measures that need to be in place can be found here.</p> <p>The Return of Parliament: Virtual meetings will continue on Tuesdays and Thursdays with an in-person meeting each Wednesday until at least May 25th.</p> <p>COVID-19 & Mental Health: In a recent Angus Reid survey found here results indicated that half of Canadians (50%) reported that their mental health has gotten worse, with 10% saying that it has worsened “a lot”.</p> <p>Request for Municipal Support: The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) has asked for \$10-billion in emergency operating funding from the federal government. Municipalities have been hit hard during the pandemic. According to the release, FCM’s data shows that municipalities are facing a minimum of “\$10-15 billion near-term, non-recoverable losses due to COVID-19”. Reasons cited include lost transit revenue, property taxes, utility charges and user fees.</p>

	<p>Canadian Survey on Business Conditions: Statistics Canada and the Canadian Chamber of Commerce released this week the results of its Canadian Survey. Some key findings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over half of all businesses see a decline of 20% or more in revenue; • Businesses in accommodation and food services, arts, entertainment and recreation and retail trade sectors were most likely to report a greater than 20% decline; • 28.6% of businesses have requested credit from financial institutions to cover operating costs due to revenue shortfalls and over three-quarters of these requests were approved or partially approved by financial institutions; and • 64.8% of businesses reported being highly affected by lower demand for their products. Those most impacted were in the accommodation and food services, arts, entertainment and recreation and retail trade. • The full survey results can be found online here.
<p>BC</p>	<p>Re-Opening the Economy: Premier John Horgan has extended the State of Emergency for another 2 weeks in the province and will release the plan for re-opening the economy next week. The Premier has indicated that it will be a staged approach to reopening and that stimulus efforts may begin in “late summer and early fall” .</p> <p>B.C. Emergency Benefit for Workers (BCEBW): Those workers in BC who are unable to work because of COVID-19 and are receiving the Canada Emergency Response Benefit can now apply for the B.C. Emergency Benefit for Workers online. This is a one-time, tax free payment of \$1,000 for eligible BC residents.</p> <p>To be eligible for the BCEBW, people must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • have been a resident of B.C. on March 15, 2020; • meet the eligibility requirements for the CERB; • have been approved for the CERB, even if a federal benefit payment has not yet been received; • be at least 15 years old on the date of application; • have filed, or agree to file, a 2019 B.C. income tax return; and • not be receiving provincial income assistance or disability assistance. <p>Applying online is the fastest, easiest way to receive the benefit. To apply, British Columbians with their social insurance number and direct deposit information can go to: www.gov.bc.ca/workerbenefit.</p> <p>Doubling Funding to Help Seniors: The Province announced it is doubling this year’s funding for Family Caregivers of British Columbia to \$1 million, helping support both caregivers and seniors. The not-for-profit organization supports people who are caring for elderly loved ones, family or friends. Family Caregivers will increase the capacity of its helpline and offer a number of virtual connections that can bring family caregivers together. This funding will allow Family Caregivers of B.C. to enhance services during the COVID-19 pandemic.</p>

	<p>Domestic Violence Support: Across the country provinces are providing support and shelter for those people experiencing violence during the pandemic. BC announced that it has secured nearly 300 additional spaces across B.C. for “people leaving violent or unstable situations, with more spaces to come.” This is in addition to the support provided for 100 transition houses and safe homes that the province funds on an ongoing basis.</p> <p>Assistance to the Forestry Industry: The government announced that it will be deferring stumpage, the fee operators pay the Province to harvest, buy or sell trees from Crown land, for 3 months so that companies can maintain their financial liquidity.</p> <p>Allowing Municipalities to Conduct Public Hearings Electronically: “Local governments will be a key partner in our recovery effort,” said Selina Robinson, Minister Municipal Affairs and Housing. “Construction and development activities are expected to be a key part of B.C.’s recovery efforts – and building housing, in particular, affordable housing, will contribute to our goal to provide affordable housing for all British Columbians. Amending this order will allow local governments to continue their work on land-use decision-making and keep building their communities for the people they serve.” A new order will help “local governments, improvement districts and the Islands Trust” and allow them to hold public hearing electronically.</p> <p>Support for Truck Drivers: Food trucks are being set up at provincially owned locations throughout B.C. to support truck drivers.</p>
<p>ALBERTA</p>	<p>A plan for Reopening: This week Premier Jason Kenney announced the province’s plan for reopening. Similar to Ontario’s plan, it will occur in three stages. While Ontario’s phases are relatively vague, Alberta’s phases by contrast are very specific. The full re-launch strategy can be found here.</p> <p>Prior to Phase 1 and as early as May 4th, Alberta Health Services will resume some scheduled, non-urgent surgeries. Dental and other health-care workers, such as physiotherapists, speech language pathologists, respiratory therapists, audiologists, social workers, occupational therapists, dieticians and more, will be allowed to resume services starting May 4. Golf courses will open as of May 1st, without access to pro shops and clubhouses.</p> <p>It is anticipated that Alberta may reach Phase 1 of the plan as early as May 14th. This would include the opening of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Retail businesses, such as clothing, furniture and bookstores. • All vendors at farmers markets will also be able to operate. • Some personal services like hairstyling and barber shops. • Museums and art galleries. • More scheduled surgeries, dental procedures, physiotherapy, chiropractic, optometry and similar services. • Daycares and out-of-school care with limits on occupancy. • Summer camps with limits on occupancy. This could include summer school. • Cafés, restaurants (minors allowed in liquor licensed establishments) with no bar service to reopen for public seating at 50 per cent capacity.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some additional outdoor recreation. • Post-secondary institutions will continue to deliver courses, however how programs are delivered – whether online, in-person, or a blend – will be dependent on what restrictions remain in place at each relaunch phase. • The use of masks will be strongly recommended in certain specific crowded public spaces, like mass transit, that do not allow for physical distancing (two metres apart).” <p>New Modelling: The Alberta government introduced new modelling this week that showed a new “low” modelling scenario that estimates 298 Albertans will require hospitalization and 95 will require critical care when the virus reaches its peak. If the current trends continue the way they are, this will become the most likely scenario for Alberta. The updated modelling scenarios continue to estimate that Alberta’s outbreak will reach its peak in late May. The full modelling update can be found here.</p> <p>Contract Tracing: Yesterday the government launched ABTRaceTogether, a voluntary, mobile contract tracing application to help the spread of COVID-19. Users must opt-in and the mobile App works by quickly notifying people who may be at risk. The only information shared with contact tracers is a random ID and nothing identifiable is exchanged between phones. The App is now available to download for free from the App Store and Google Play. More information available here.</p>
<p>SASKATCHEWAN</p>	<p>New Health Data: The Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA) released new data that showed Saskatchewan is in a better position to manage the pandemic as a result of actions taken to date. It is now estimated that the province will need 1,000 fewer hospital beds, 400 fewer ICU beds and 400 fewer ventilators than previously announced on April 8, 2020. More details can be found here.</p> <p>More Child Care: The government announced that residents working now or returning to work under Phase I and Phase II of the Re-Open Saskatchewan plan will have access to licensed child- care services located within Saskatchewan schools. Previously these childcare spaces were reserved for pandemic response workers but will now be opened up to other workers. The centres will operate with a maximum of 8 children per room and will have increased sanitization measures.</p> <p>Travel Restrictions Tightened in Northern Saskatchewan: An announcement was made of further travel restrictions for the Northern Saskatchewan Administrative District (NSAD). Also included was immediate funding of \$370,000 targeted to combating COVID-19 in the province’s Far North region, and the addition of seasonal businesses to the Saskatchewan Small Business Emergency Payment. All non-critical travel (including those with primary residences) will be restricted into and out of the NSAD, as well as restricting all non-critical travel between northern communities.</p> <p>Additional Wage Assistance for Workers: Workers employed to help vulnerable citizens will receive a \$400 per month temporary wage supplement. It is estimated that this will apply to 35,000 essential workers at senior-care, group homes, childcare facilities, and emergency and transition shelters. The new wage supplement consists of a flat \$400 per month benefit for up to 16 weeks (March 15 to July 4) for each eligible worker. The application process for the supplement will be outlined in the coming days. Essential workers such as caregivers, cooks and cleaners, both full-time and part-time, at these facilities are eligible.</p>

	<p>Supporting Local Business: The government is providing \$1 million to support a province-wide marketing campaign to encourage Saskatchewan residents to support local businesses and their employees. The initiative encourages residents to buy local, including through online and phone sales and curbside pickup and delivery options. While many businesses remain fully or partially open, many are reporting a significant decline in sales.</p>
<p>MANITOBA</p>	<p>Premier Pallister Unveils Manitoba's Roadmap to Expanding Services Safely: Manitoba will begin a multi-phased effort next week to gradually reopen. Full details of the reopening plans can be found here.</p> <p>As of May 4, 2020, some non-essential health-care and retail businesses will have the option to reopen under strict guidelines. Reopening includes: non-urgent health services; dentists/orthodontics/physiotherapy; and elective surgeries.</p> <p>Restrictions will be eased for the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outdoor recreations on play structures, golf courses, campgrounds, museums, galleries, and libraries; • Retail businesses such as clothing stores, sporting goods, restaurant patios/walk up services, and hair salons. Requirements for behavior in dealing with customers will be detailed and the province will be increasing inspections. <p>Travel restrictions remain in place, including mandatory 14-day self isolation if coming from outside the province. Gatherings remain restricted to no more than ten people. The province will review limits to the size of gatherings as early as mid-May, however no large gatherings such as concerts or festivals will be considered.</p> <p>Expansion of Test Criteria: The province is expanding COVID-19 testing criteria and also increasing its testing capacity. Effective immediately, the province is expanding testing criteria to any Manitoban with symptoms of COVID-19, even mild symptoms including a cough, runny nose, sore throat and/or fever.</p> <p>Legislature to resume on limited schedule: The Manitoba legislature will reconvene on Wednesday, May 6th. The legislature was previously adjourned on March 19th. Physical distancing measures will be in place. One sitting day will be held each week throughout May, on the 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th of the month. These sittings will proceed on a schedule as they would normally, with a question period at 1:30 p.m. and debate on government business in the afternoon.</p> <p>Online Portal to Facilitate Business Applications now Live: Businesses will now be able to access the Manitoba Gap Protection Program (MGPP) online. It was created for the approximately 20,000 businesses that do not qualify for the federal funding announced. The \$120-million MGPP was announced last week. The MGPP provides an interest-free, forgivable \$6,000 loan to small and medium-sized businesses in Manitoba. Eligible businesses will receive a one-time, lump-sum payment of \$6,000, electronically deposited into their business bank account. Eligible businesses are now able to submit online applications forms at https://manitoba.ca/covid19/business/mgpp.html. The application deadline is July 31st.</p>

	<p>Four more Temporary Orders under the Emergency Act: Four more temporary orders come into force under the Emergency Act including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth in Care Provisions Order; • Student Aid Provisions Order; • International Fuel Tax Agreement Credential Provisions Order; and • The Trucking and Transportation Provisions Order that extends the expiry dates on certain permits, certificates or registrations until July 31. The order also extends the period between required inspections on vehicles such as buses and commercial carriers, extends annual overweight or over-dimensional vehicle permits, and extends safety fitness certificates for commercial carriers. The order will also provide a temporary exemption from the need for single-trip permits for increased vehicle weights and for commercial vehicles from other jurisdictions. <p>Supporting Farmers Markets and Local Food Producers: The government, in partnership with the Canadian government, are supporting a project that will allow local food producers and farmers’ markets to sell their products online. Canada and Manitoba will be providing a total of \$160,000 to purchase a software platform that will allow residents to order online from local producers and farmers’ markets. The funding will also go toward the development of pickup and delivery options, and safe handling and packaging practices for producers and processors.</p>
<p>ONTARIO</p>	<p>Re-opening of the Economy: On March 27th Ontario released its benchmarks and framework for re-opening the economy. The Premier refused to put timelines on the document which lacked both a calendar and specific details as it highlighted three stages of re-opening. Each stage will be assessed for 2-3 weeks before moving to the next. The full news release can be found here. The day before, the Minister of Education Stephen Lecce indicated that schools will remain closed <u>until at least May 31, 2020</u>.</p> <p>The Chief Medical Officer of Health and health experts will provide advice to the government about easing public health measures using a range of set criteria, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A consistent two-to-four week decrease in the number of new daily COVID-19 cases; • Sufficient acute and critical care capacity, including access to ventilators and ongoing availability of personal protective equipment; • Approximately 90 per cent of new COVID-19 contacts are being reached by local public health officials within one day, with guidance and direction to contain community spread; and • Ongoing testing of suspected COVID-19 cases, especially of vulnerable populations, to detect new outbreaks quickly. <p>Three Stages of Re-opening:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.

On Friday, May 1st the Premier announced that the certain businesses could open under strict guidelines. These include seasonal businesses and **some essential construction projects**. The following businesses will be permitted to begin operations on Monday, May 4 at 12:01 a.m.:

- Garden centres and nurseries with curbside pick-up and delivery only;
- Lawn care and landscaping;
- **Additional essential construction projects that include:**
 - **shipping and logistics;**
 - **broadband, telecommunications, and digital infrastructure;**
 - **any other project that supports the improved delivery of goods and services;**
 - **municipal projects;**
 - **colleges and universities;**
 - **child care centres;**
 - **schools; and**
 - **site preparation, excavation, and servicing for institutional, commercial, industrial and residential development;**
- Automatic and self-serve car washes;
- Auto dealerships, open by appointment only;
- Golf courses may prepare their courses for the upcoming season, but not open to the public; and
- Marinas may also begin preparations for the recreational boating season by servicing boats and other watercraft and placing boats in the water, but not open to the public. Boats and watercraft must be secured to a dock in the marina until public access is allowed.

Website for Temporarily Changing Rules and Regulations: The government announced it was launching *COVID-19: Tackling the Barriers*, a website that will help “businesses overcome the unique challenges created by the global pandemic. Businesses working to retool their operations to produce health-related products, or those that want to continue their operations in this new environment of physical distancing, can submit any potential roadblocks to the website. The province is prepared to allow temporary changes to provincial rules and regulations in order to remove any barriers that are hindering business and negatively impacting Ontario's supply chain.” The government also announced that the province is pausing or extending public consultations, delaying non-urgent related consultations while the emergency situation remains in place, and considering extending deadlines for reports and audits.

Releasing Guidelines and Helping Businesses Adapt: The government released safety guidelines to protect workers, customers, and the general public as it slowly reopens. The guidelines provide direction to those working in manufacturing, food manufacturing and processing, restaurant and food service, and the agricultural sector. More details can be found [here](#).

	<p>Update-to-date information for truck drivers: The government is offering a new free 511 app which will provide truck drivers with immediate access to important information. “The Ontario 511 app provides images from over 600 cameras and includes up-to-date highway information on construction, collisions and road closures. It also identifies open rest areas and locations throughout the province that offer food and fuel. The app includes an easy to use map view and features a drive mode that provides hands free audio alerts.”</p> <p>Free Emergency Child Care expanded: This week the Ontario government expanded the list of essential workers eligible to receive free emergency childcare. Additional frontline workers who can now access emergency childcare services include: workers in grocery stores and pharmacies, truck drivers (driver's licence Class A and Class D), workers in the food supply chain, including food processing, workers in retirement homes, auxiliary workers in health care settings, including cooks and cleaning staff in hospitals and long-term care homes, interpreters and intervenors who support people who are deaf, deafened, hard of hearing and deafblind, Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) emergency personnel, Provincial officers and onsite staff in Ontario courts, Canadian Armed Forces and Department of National Defence staff working in Ontario, and additional workers supporting public safety and correctional services.</p>
<p>QUEBEC</p>	<p>Re-opening of elementary schools and daycares: On April 27th Premier Legault announced a gradual re-opening of schools and daycare starting on May 11. Elementary schools will re-open on May 11, except in the Greater Montreal area, where they will open on May 19. Attendance will not be mandatory. High-schools, colleges and universities will remain closed until the Fall. The rationale behind the decision to re-open elementary schools is based on health and social factors. Medical pediatricians warned of potential mental health issues with keeping children in confinement too long, in particular for those children from families with low-income and families with violence and substance abuse problems.</p> <p>Re-Opening of Business:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All retail stores that are not located within a shopping center will be allowed to re-open as of Monday May 4 except in the Greater Montreal area where it will be May 11. (Stores located in a shopping center will be able to reopen if there is a direct entrance from the outside.) 2. Construction will be fully re-opened as of May 11th, with the exception of administrative functions which will continue through teleworking as much as possible. 3. For manufacturing sector (which would include industrial facilities), re-opening will be allowed as of May 11, with some restrictions on the number of people allowed to be in the plant at a given time until May 25. After May 25, these restrictions should be removed. <p>First, even though construction will be fully re-opened as of May 11, all administrative functions will continue to be conducted through teleworking (as much as possible).</p> <p>For manufacturing there will be restrictions on the number of employees allowed during a couple of weeks. <i>As of Monday, May 11, 2020, manufacturing companies in all regions of Quebec will be able to resume their activities. However, they will have to have a maximum of 50 workers + 50% of surplus employees per shift at any time of the day on a single site. For example, a company who would normally have 100 employees on a given shift will be allowed to have only 75 (50 + half of the additional 50). As of Monday, May 25, 2020, manufacturing companies in all regions of Quebec will be authorized to resume operations without any restriction on the number of employees present to ensure their operations.</i></p> <p>Strict protective measures will be required on all workplace. There is no timetable yet for the re-opening of other sectors such as restaurants, personal care, tourism, cultural sector, etc.</p>

	<p>Re-Opening travels between Quebec regions: On April 29th, the Quebec government announced a gradual re-opening of certain regions, starting on May 4. While it is still recommended to limit travels between regions, traffic controls will be lifted gradually over the next three weeks, except for a few regions where no timetable has been provided. These include the city of Gatineau, as well as northern Quebec, Nunavik and the James Bay Cree Territory. A decision on these regions will be made at a later date. This means that traffic control on the bridges between Ottawa and Gatineau are maintained until further notice.</p> <p>Testing and Screening Strategy: Quebec presented on May 1st its testing and screening strategy in connection with the gradual re-opening of the economy. The goal is to more than double the number of tests performed every day, going from the current 6,000 tests per day to 14,000 tests per day, or nearly 100,000 tests per week. Testing will be conducted everywhere, with a focus on areas where there is community transmission and in the places that will reopen first.</p> <p>Health Services Fund: On April 30, the Quebec government announced the implementation of a program to give eligible employers a credit on contributions to the Health Services Fund for employees on forced leave. This measure would allow businesses that benefit from the federal government's Emergency Wage Subsidy Program to obtain a refund of contributions to the Health Services Fund that are not covered by the federal program. The assistance measure announced by the Quebec government would be valid for the same period as the federal government's Emergency Wage Subsidy Program, from March 15 to June 6, 2020. The program could be extended if the federal program is also extended. For more information, we invite you to consult this link: http://www.finances.gouv.qc.ca/documents/Bulletins/fr/BULFR_2020-7-f-b.pdf</p>
<p>ATLANTIC</p>	<p><u>Nova Scotia:</u></p> <p>Easing of Some Restrictions: On May 1st, the Premier announced the easing of some public health restrictions, however social distancing and directives around social gatherings remains in place. A phased re-opening plan is under development.</p> <p>Effective immediately “the initial steps are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provincial and municipal parks can reopen, but playground equipment will continue to be off limits • trails are allowed to open • people are allowed to use and visit community gardens • garden centres, nurseries and similar businesses can open • sportfishing is permitted from shore or boat, but fishing derbies are not allowed • people can attend boating, yacht or sailing clubs for the purpose of preparing boats for use • golf driving ranges can open, including those at golf clubs, but the course must remain closed; golf clubs can perform necessary maintenance and preparations for opening

- people can use their cottages. Use is restricted to one household unit at a time, travel must be directly to the cottage and back, and travelling back and forth frequently from cottage and primary residence is discouraged
- provincial and private campgrounds remain closed, but they can perform necessary maintenance and preparations for opening. An exception is recreational vehicles parked year-round at private campgrounds, which can be used but must follow the same rules as cottages
- drive-in religious services will be allowed, as long as people stay in their cars, they are parked two metres apart and there are no interactions between people in cars or between people in cars and others”

Schools and Child Care remain closed: The Premier announced this week that schools and licensed daycares will remain closed until at least Tuesday, May 19th. This will be reviewed closer to the date.

Loan Available to Municipalities: A new loan program will be introduced to help with the financial losses of municipalities. It is a \$380 million loan program, developed with the Nova Scotia Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities and the Association of Municipal Administrators.

New Brunswick:

No New Cases: Yesterday, for the 13th day in a row, the province reported no new cases. No one is in the hospital and there are only 2 known active cases in the province.

State of Emergency Extended: The order has been extended until May 14th and includes the following new items:

- All licences, registrations, certificates and permits issued under provincial laws that were valid as of March 16, previously extended to May 31, have been extended again to June 30
- Municipal councils and council committees are now authorized to hold more meeting electronically.

Job Matching: An online job-matching platform will be launched on May 4th to connect residents with positions typically filled by temporary foreign workers. According to the province there will be up to 600 positions available in sectors such as agriculture and aquaculture. The province has restricted temporary foreign workers from entering the province.

Job Protection: The province has confirmed that job protection, retroactive to March 12th, is now in place for those people who have not been able to work because of COVID-19. This applies to people who have had it, are caring for someone who has it, are caring for their children, or are following self-isolation or quarantine protocols. Employees should request the unpaid leave from their employers as soon as possible.

Testing Protocols expanded: New symptoms are being added to the testing protocol. This includes: new fatigue, new muscle pain, diarrhea, loss of taste or smell, and in children, purple markings on the fingers or toes. Those exhibiting those symptoms will be tested for COVID-19.

Getting an Early Start on Post-Secondary Education: The provincial government is partnering with the University of New Brunswick, St. Thomas University, Mount Allison University and the Université de Moncton and is encouraging Grade 12 students to start on their post-secondary education by enrolling in online, distance learning offered through the spring and summer intersession courses. This applies to students who are on track to graduate in June.

Prince Edward Island:

Renew PEI, Together: The province this week released its plan to ease public health restrictions for Islanders. *Renew PEI, Together* outlines the guiding principles and phased approach to the reopening of businesses, services and public spaces. The first phase will begin Friday, May 1. Full details can be found [here](#).

The plan will be implemented in four phases with a progressive lifting of public health measures over three-week periods. Progression will be gradual and constantly evaluated based on the latest public health information. Decisions during each phase will be based on public health evidence and continuous monitoring. If there are concerns about progressing into a next phase, progress will be slowed, halted or even reversed.

“Priority non-urgent health care services will begin May 1. This includes certain elective surgeries and other priority services (e.g. cardiac supports, cancer screening) and select health service providers including, for example, physiotherapists, optometrists, opticians, chiropractors, foot care providers, occupational therapy and naturopaths. Where possible and feasible, other health care delivery will continue virtually.

Also beginning May 1, outdoor gatherings and non-contact outdoor recreational activities of no more than five individuals from different households, while maintaining physical distancing, will be permitted. This includes recreational fishing, golf courses and current PEI residents going to their own seasonal properties. In addition, select outdoor and construction services – landscaping, road construction, indoor construction projects, watershed clean-up and outdoor photography – will be allowed with proper physical distancing practices in place.”

Education Update: The province has outlined its plans for the remainder of the 2019/2020 school year. School-based learning will remain for some individuals, including students who receive individualized educational supports. The majority of teachers will continue to connect with their students and support at-home student learning based. Beginning May 11, several designated schools will open to some students who currently receive individualized supports from educational assistants and youth service workers.