



PUBLIC HEALTH MEMO

COVID-19

COVID-19: Guidance for Lawn Care and Pool Maintenance Service Providers

Landscaping, lawn care and pool maintenance service providers in Windsor and Essex County have been running on an emergency basis during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Windsor-Essex County Health Unit is recommending lawn care and pool maintenance services that provide services for safety and sanitation purposes be allowed starting **May 1, 2020**.

This recommendation is to ensure that properties remain safe and free from tall grass or standing water to help prevent tick and mosquito breeding habitats. This memo provides current guidance provided by the WECHU under Dr. Wajid Ahmed, Medical Officer of Health.

The services include lawn cutting, clearing yard and garden debris, dethatching, rolling, fence or deck repairs, and pool maintenance are permitted. All other landscaping activities that are undertaken for aesthetic reasons or that involve the construction of new fences, decks or pools; will remain suspended until the Province lifts restrictions.

Recommendations for Lawn Care and Pool Maintenance Services Employers

- Post signs or inform all employees of guidelines before starting the job, including physical distancing requirements, no more than five persons at a time, and no sharing of food or personal items
- Schedule only 5 workers at one time per site
- Do not provide shared tools, or if this is not possible assign tools to each person
- Provide hand sanitizer or hand washing station at the worksite, and work vehicles if possible
 - Sanitizer should be at least 60% alcohol
- Do not allow employees to share vehicles and make arrangements to meet on site to ensure physical distancing
- Set up a sanitizing schedule for equipment and tools using approved [disinfectant and cleaners](#) that are effective for COVID-19:
 - At minimum clean at the start of the job and the end of the job
 - Post sign instructing/reminding employees to wash hands before and after handling common items like power tools, gates etc
- Do not allow sick employees to come to work
- Set up administrative controls that do not require your employees to engage occupants or homeowners
- Keep detailed work schedules of employees on record

Recommendations for Employees providing Lawn Care and Pool Maintenance Services

- Employees should ensure that they are familiar with all rules and guidelines before starting the job
- Maintain physical distancing of 2 metres between yourself and other coworkers at all times



- Limit interactions with homeowner and occupants
- Avoid touching your face, including your eyes, nose and mouth
- Cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your arm, not your hand
- Wash hands with soap and water before and after handling common tools and before and after your shift. If there is not a sink available, bring alcohol-based hand sanitizer and sanitize hands regularly
- Avoid the sharing of hand and power tools, or regularly sanitize equipment that must be shared
- Clean and sanitize frequently touched surfaces inside the vehicle (e.g., car door handles, armrests, buttons for windows and locks, and seatbelts) with a standard household cleaner or disinfectant
- Stay home from work and other activities if you are not feeling well

The COVID-19 pandemic is evolving rapidly, and this guidance is subject to change. Please visit the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit website (www.wechu.org) regularly for updates and additional information. To subscribe for timely and relevant email updates, please subscribe through the [wechu.org](http://www.wechu.org) website.

For information on essential businesses visit <https://www.ontario.ca/page/list-essential-workplaces>