Under what authority did Durham Region Health Department (DRHD) issue a class order related to the COVID-19 pandemic to require persons to self-isolate and follow additional instructions, as required?

The Health Protection and Promotion Act authorizes the Medical Officer of Health to make a class order to address the risks presented by the potential spread of COVID-19 to residents of Durham Region.

Why did the Medical Officer of Health issue this class order?

Based on the continuing risk of COVID-19 transmission in Durham Region, and experiences in similar cities around the world, this is a targeted mandatory measure that will strengthen our ability to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and preserve and protect the capacity of our health care system.

While most people who have or may have COVID-19, as well as their close contacts, have been compliant with instructions from DRHD, there are individuals who do not take these measures seriously enough. This class order is a legal tool to help us ensure that everyone who needs to, complies with the instructions from the DRHD.

Who is required to self-isolate under this order?

The following individuals are required to self-isolate: people who have been diagnosed with COVID-19, people who have signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and are awaiting test results, people who otherwise have reasonable grounds to believe they have symptoms of COVID-19 and those who have been in close contact with a person who has been diagnosed with or believes they have COVID-19.

A close contact is a person who is caring for or living in the same household with someone who has COVID-19 or is otherwise identified as a close contact by DRHD.

What additional instructions are listed under this order?

As requested by the DRHD, individuals are required to provide up to date contact information for all persons they have come in contact with during the period of communicability and participate in daily phone calls to confirm isolation and current health status.

When is the revised order in effect? How long must people self-isolate and follow instructions from the DRHD?

The revised order is in effect from 12:01 a.m. on October 14, 2020 and will remain in effect until the Medical Officer of Health determines it is no longer required.

• The self-isolation period for people who have been diagnosed with COVID-19 and people who otherwise have reasonable grounds to believe they have symptoms of COVID-19 is usually **10 days** from symptom onset.

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The self-isolation period for people who have signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and are awaiting their test results is usually **10 days** from the date of symptom onset unless a negative test result is received. People who have been tested for COVID-19 and are waiting test results must remain isolated until test results are received.

The self-isolation period for people who have been in close contact with someone who has been diagnosed with or believes they have COVID-19 is **14 days** from the date of last exposure.


### What does it mean to self-isolate under the order?

Individuals who are affected by the order are required to stay at home and not have visitors, except as permitted by DRHD (for example, where a health care worker is visiting the home). If a person with COVID-19 is homeless, or where their home is otherwise unsuitable or unsafe for isolation purposes, assistance with accommodations will be provided.


### How do I self-isolate at home?


### How could the order be enforced if a person fails to self-isolate?

Individuals who are required to self-isolate and follow DRHD instructions, as identified under this order, and who do not do so can be charged and fined up to $5,000 per day. Police assistance can be ordered for individuals who do not willingly comply.

### Can a person challenge the order?

Individuals identified in the class may challenge the order by appealing to the Health Services Appeal and Review Board. Contact information for the Health Services Appeal and Review Board can be found at: [www.hsarbo.on.ca/scripts/english/contact.asp](http://www.hsarbo.on.ca/scripts/english/contact.asp).

### How does the Medical Officer of Health's class order under the Health Protection and Promotion Act differ from the federal order under the Quarantine Act?

The federal government’s quarantine order was aimed at all travellers entering Canada, effective March 25, 2020. That order also imposes a 14-day home quarantine on travellers regardless of whether they have symptoms of COVID-19.

The federal order also provides some limited exceptions to self-quarantine, including individuals providing essential services, such as health care workers. Federal public health officers can also detain and isolate persons who exhibit symptoms of COVID-19 when they first enter the country.

In some cases, individuals subject to home quarantine or isolation measures under the federal quarantine order, may also be subject to the Class Order issued by Durham Region’s Medical Officer of Health (for example, individuals who are diagnosed with COVID-19 and have also recently returned from travel).