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<https://www.agco.ca/agco-message-liquor-licensees-about-government-ontarios-direction-bars-and-restaurants-close>

## AGCO Message to Liquor Licensees about the Government of Ontario's Direction for Bars and Restaurants to Close in Response to the Spread of COVID-19

*March 18, 2020*

The Premier of Ontario [declared](#) a state of emergency in Ontario and has ordered that all bars and restaurants in the province close, except for offering takeout food and delivery.

We appreciate the significant impact these closures will have on all those in the hospitality sector across the province and share your deep concern for the hardships this may cause the businesses, individuals and families that are affected. We encourage you to take advantage of all supports being introduced by the provincial government. That said, these are extraordinary measures designed to protect the health and safety of all Ontarians during the COVID-19 pandemic and the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO) will do all it can to support the Government of Ontario's measures.

At all times, we expect those who hold a Liquor Sales Licence to act with honesty, integrity and in the public interest. In light of the announcement by the government, this means bars and restaurants *must* abide by the direction to close down all but takeout food and delivery services. Please be reminded that the sale and service of alcohol to individuals while they are waiting to pick up their meal order is not allowed.

The AGCO is maintaining its compliance monitoring activities throughout this situation. In these extraordinary times, it is important that we all do our part to look after the health and safety of our broader communities. Please be advised that any liquor licensed establishment found to be disregarding the government's directive may be subject to regulatory action from the AGCO. This may include monetary penalties, suspension or even revocation of liquor licences.

If you have any questions, you can access AGCO's live [customer support](#) by phone or online from Monday to Friday, 8:30 am to 5:00 pm. You can also [submit your questions, comments or complaints](#) through our online portal anytime.

You may also contact your local Compliance Official by phone or email if you have any questions.



**Pamela Sweeny**

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