**COVID-19**

**Questions & Answers**

As a matter of public health and safety, we all need to work together to contain this virus. When people ignore the advice and orders of the Chief Medical Officer of Health, it results in the virus spreading more and lasting in the community longer. If we want this situation to be over more quickly, then we must really work hard to follow these rules. Here are answers to some of the questions we have been receiving to help you navigate through next steps.

We will continue to add to these Questions & Answers in the coming days and weeks.

**Questions & Answers:**

**Do we have to close?**  
Yes. This is an order issued under the Public Health Act. It is a criminal offense to ignore it.  
  
**Would we be penalized if we stayed open – I work on my own?**  
It is against the law to remain open during a Mandated Closure by our Government. This is an order issued under the Public Health Act. It covers all salons, spas, irrespective of the size.

**If we have a salon in a nursing home can we still work?**

No. Every business that provides a personal service (salons, spas, nails) must close.

**Can we continue to keep our retail area open?**

No. This order is about using social distancing to stave off a public health crisis. Only essential services are permitted to be open at this time.   
  
**Where do we find financial aid?**

The Federal Government outlined extensive programs and funding in response to COVID-19.

This situation is evolving. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2020/03/canadas-covid-19-economic-response-plan-support-for-canadians-and-businesses.html> Its bests to check the government of Canada website for the most up to date information.

**As owners, do we have to issue lay offs?**  
Yes. If you are an employer, you are required to issue a layoff for employees to allow them access to the programs. However please note that the government has waived the waiting period to apply for EI. To the latest information click here: <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/corporate/notices/coronavirus.html>

**Can we apply for EI with a T4?**

The requirements and website for applying for EI during the COVID 19 pandemic are here <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/corporate/notices/coronavirus.html>

**I have a mobile licence. Can I still work?**

No. The government has mandated that we only interact with one another for essential services.

**Am I required to pay my chair rent during this closure?**

During this crisis, it would up to the salon/spa owner to decide whether rent is due, unless there is a clause in the contract agreement.

In addition to these questions and answers, please visit this link for more information from our Government.

<https://www.halifaxtoday.ca/local-news/gyms-barbershops-and-nail-salons-among-businesses-that-must-close-thursday-2177834>