

## New COVID restrictions impact municipal services

The provincial government has placed Ontario in a Modified Step Two of its Roadmap to Reopen plan, resulting in the closure of several amenities within the Town of Orangeville.

The Town announced that its facilities are closed until further notice, going into effect on Jan. 5, with many services still being offered in different formats.

The recreation centres is closed, and facility rentals as well as programs are cancelled. Recreation staff are working on notifications and refunds for those already booked.

The vaccination centre at the Alder Recreation Centre will remain open through the closure of town facilities.

The Orangeville Public Library is closed, but continues to offer curbside pick-up at the Mill Street location.

Town Hall is closed, with appointments available for essential services only.

The Lakeview Annex, Fire Hall, and Operations Centre are closed. Municipal parks remain open for use, as will outdoor skating rinks once they are operational.

All Town staff are working remotely unless the nature of their work requires them to be on site.

?The current goal will be to redeploy as many staff as possible to work in other areas, as needed, to address any service impacts,? said the Town of Orangeville in a recent press release.

?Residents are encouraged to access information and e-services at [www.orangeville.ca](http://www.orangeville.ca) or contact Customer Service staff at 519-941-0440 ext. 0.?

In recognition of the impact of provincially mandated lockdowns on small businesses, the government is expanding the new Ontario Business Costs Rebate Program. Eligible businesses that are required to close or reduce capacity will receive rebate payments for a portion of the property tax and energy costs they incur while subject to these measures.

Details on eligible business types will be made available when applications for the program open later this month.

The province expects to stay in a Modified Step Two until at least January 26, subject to public health and health system indicators.