

[COVID-19 Update] All productions will be shut down temporarily

After careful thought and deliberation regarding the COVID-19 outbreak, the difficult decision was made for all IATSE Local 873 productions to halt filming as a precautionary and temporary measure to avoid the potential spread of the COVID-19 virus.

This decision reflects our forefront priority, which is the health and safety of all of our members, staff and family. This temporary suspension of filming is being done in the effort to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

We will keep you informed as this unfolds.

What to do if your show has suspended production

Our advice to members is to start the process of filing for Canada Employment Insurance for those that qualify. You can do so by applying online:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/ei/ei-regular-benefit/before-applying.html>

Or by calling 1-800-206-7218, Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. local time, and press 0 to speak to a representative.

You can qualify for a Temporary Sick Benefit if you have symptoms

Our Health & Welfare Trustees have created a process for IATSE Local 873 members, who are in good standing, to receive a two-week sickness benefit, if directed by a public health representative, doctor, or employer to self-quarantine as per the Toronto Public Health guidelines.

There is a special application form that must be filled out to assess if the member qualifies. Please email benefits@iatse873.com to request this form only if you have been instructed to self-quarantine.

Employment Insurance sickness benefits are also available

The Government of Canada has announced that Employment Insurance sickness benefits provide up to 15 weeks of income replacement and is available to eligible claimants who are unable to work because of illness, injury or quarantine.

The one-week waiting period for E.I. sickness benefits is being waived for new claimants who are quarantined.

Please follow this link for more information: <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/corporate/notices/coronavirus.html>

What are the symptoms and what should you do?

Symptoms can include fever, cough and difficulty breathing – very similar to a cold or flu. Some people can develop a more severe illness. People most at risk of this include older adults and people with severe chronic medical conditions like heart, lung or kidney disease.

Health Canada explains on its website that if you start having COVID-19 symptoms, it's important to:

- Isolate yourself from others as quickly as possible.
- Call either a health care professional or the public health authority in your province.
- Describe what your symptoms are and your travel history and the authority will provide advice on what to do.
- You can also call Telehealth Ontario, 1 866-797-0000 for free confidential information on what to do next. They are available 24/7.

Why we should focus on social distancing

Canadians have been urged to embrace social distancing in an effort to slow the spread of the outbreak. The province is using a containment strategy — meaning it's focused on reducing opportunities for COVID-19 to spread within the community.

Social distancing limits the spread of an illness in the population by creating physical space between people and avoids large groups altogether.

The goal is to slow the spread of the virus in order to reduce the load on the country's health-care system.

Canada has time to “flatten the curve”

You've likely heard this term used already. Essentially what it means is that the time is now to act so that we can *mitigate* the spread of this infection in Canada. We're not

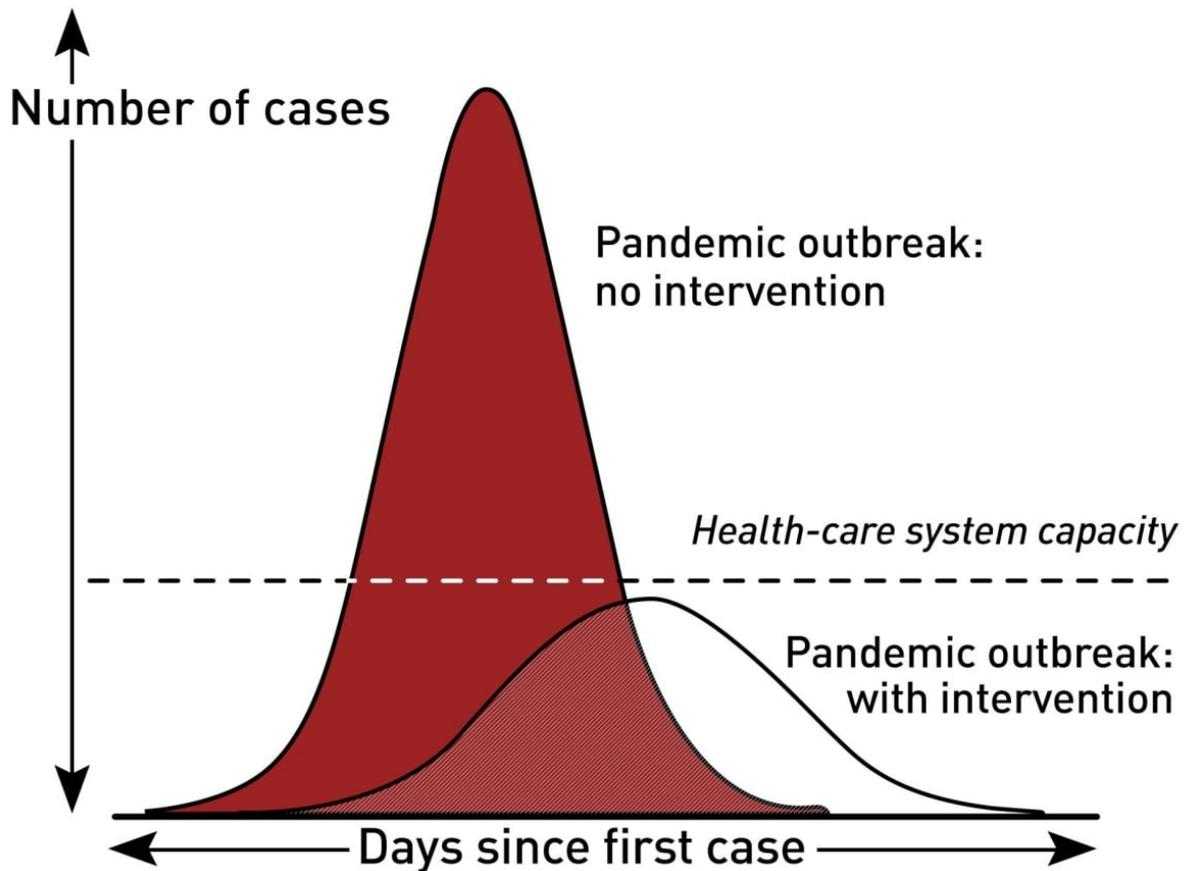
going to *eliminate* the spread, but we can certainly dampen the effects— which is why public health officials have turned their attention to slowing it down.

In Canada (and elsewhere) large events are being canceled, some people are being told to work from home, and some students will be taking courses online for a few weeks.

It's a temporary public health strategy aimed at slowing the potential spread and buying time.

Flattening the curve

Slowing the spread of the virus



CBC NEWS

Source: CDC

We can all do our part in this

Wash your hands: Wash your hands frequently with soap and water or hand sanitizer, and make sure you're washing them for long enough. The recommended length is 20 seconds.

Self-Isolation: It is crucial that individuals follow quarantine and self-isolation recommendations properly to prevent transmission of COVID-19 to others in the home setting or in the community.

- Not going out of the home setting
- Not using public transportation
- Identifying a “buddy” to check on and do errands for you, especially if you live alone or are at a higher risk for developing complications
- Having supplies delivered home instead of running errands
- Maintaining a two-meter distance between yourself and others in the event that you must leave your home.

Keep your space clean: High contact areas should be cleaned regularly, including doorknobs, bathrooms, cupboard handles, and TV remotes. It is also recommended to sneeze or cough into your sleeve. And if you get sick, stay at home and use a private bathroom.

Reconsider your vacations: By making the choice to stay at home and not travel outside of Canada, you are protecting yourself, your family and doing your part to slow the spread of the virus.

Pack an emergency kit: It is recommended that Canadians have an emergency kit ready in the event that you’re required to self-isolate.

We will continue to closely monitor and follow recommendations by health and government officials. Thank you for your understanding and patience during this unprecedented time.