

## **Guidance to Regions Regarding Inspections during the COVID19 Outbreak – March 15, 2020**

ESA's response team has been working diligently to address the emerging issues. We are moving into circumstances that will require us to focus on the highest safety and related priorities of the province, while protecting our staff and the public

There is a short and long term view to the COVID 19 outbreak. The long term approach is developing, and no doubt will change in the coming days and weeks. In the short term, and until amended, ESA will take the following actions:

- ESA staff will not be attending external meetings of large groups until further notice.
- All Training Sessions and all Master Exams are cancelled until the end of April 2020.

### **DIRECTION**

Effective immediately, ESA inspectors will not enter **occupied areas** of the following facilities:

- Long Term Care Homes and Seniors residences
- Hospitals
- Retirement Homes
- Day Care facilities
- Personal Dwellings – including homes, apartments and condos
- Community Housing for non-critical routine inspections

Access Arranged – for Monday and Tuesday March 16 & 17, Inspectors will notify customers/clients directly they will not be coming for Inspections that meet the above limitations. In addition, ESA will restrict Access Arranged appointments in future for the locations listed above.

These steps are taken both to protect the residents of those facilities, as well as our staff from unnecessary exposure.

ESA has a responsibility to protect Ontarians. Connection authorizations so people can receive, or continue to receive electrical service are a priority. Inspectors are encouraged to use a wide range of options and discretion to exercise their authority and conduct inspections in the coming days and weeks.

This includes the ability to utilize tools and practices such as:

- Pass without a Visit where practical
- Sampling tools in ACP, and the soon to be implemented RBO
- Photos
- Videos – live or recorded
- Instead of visiting a facility or dwelling, the Inspector can meet the LEC performing the work at a safe location to review pictures, videos and any other available evidence to give the Inspector comfort regarding the state of electrical safety for the site or installation
- Non Contractor notifications can be pushed out 30 days to a point in time in the future where any health concerns at that location may have subsided
- When entering an installation, the Inspector is being advised to only view or access the areas needed to complete the notification. They will touch as little as possible and maintain a safe social distance
- If an inspector is unable to physically view an installation but has accepted pictures, videos or other evidence – they will make a record in the notification to that effect.

Thank you for your co-operation.