

Ontario's new stay-at-home order exempts 'individuals who are homeless'.

Who should this include?

The exemption must recognize that no two experiences of homelessness are exactly the same. Drawing on the Canadian Definition of Homelessness, we suggest that the exemption include these circumstances:

Unsheltered



Those living in public outdoor spaces such as on the pavement or in parks, or in spaces not made for accommodation (cars, storage spaces).

Emergency Sheltered



Those using the services of an organization that provides short term shelter for sleeping, drop-in, or basic survival needs such as bathing, washrooms, laundry or safe use space.

Precariously Sheltered



Those who access shelter that is limited, unsafe, intermittent or unstable. Such shelter may not meet health and safety standards, have legal protections, or provide personal privacy (couch surfing, communal settings, or illegal or exploitative housing arrangements).

'It should be noted that for many people homelessness is not a static state but rather a fluid experience, where one's shelter circumstances and options may shift and change quite dramatically and with frequency.'

—Canadian Definition of Homelessness
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