

## Slow Down in September

Just as surely as summer is followed by fall, Labour Day is followed by school – and that will be true even this year. Many in Ontario are caught up in the discussion of what school should look like on the inside, and how safe can it be, but for employers in Ontario, the big problem is on the outside.



Once again, students will be walking, biking, skateboarding to school, and generally messing up the traffic on many roads. If you operate a fleet, right now would be a good time to remind your drivers that, even by September standards, this fall is going to be different. You are used to seeing pedestrians on their way to work glued to their phones and now that risk will also increase dramatically with students crossing streets in masses.

First, there will be very few school buses in most parts of Ontario. So? That means more students walking, biking, etc., while the weather is good, as well as more parents driving. If your delivery routes involve school zones, let your drivers know that they may face bottlenecks as parents line up to drop off their kids. And, they may, suddenly, after a socially distanced summer, encounter lots of little groups of kids far more involved with catching up with each other than they are with remembering the rules of the road.

If you are a driver, slow down and stay vigilant. Students have not been in school for a long time, they will be excited to see their friends again, and they forget that in a collision between an 80 student and a 3,000 pound SUV, the student always loses.

Remember that there will be a rush hour in school zones at the beginning of the day, as well as at the end of the day. Plan your routes accordingly, and, to use the words of Dr. Bonnie Henry again, “Be calm, be kind.”

With September comes later sunrise and earlier sunset – not a problem for school right after Labour Day, but it will become one as we get into October. Make sure your lights are working, and your horn, because soon you will be starting and ending your workday in twilight. Kids are always hard to see, but this is especially true at twilight.

This is going to be a different fall – probably more kids walking and more parents driving. We can’t change that, but we can all slow down, remain calm and remember that, for a lot of us, we are here because some driver, years ago, slowed down for us.

**Pass it on.**



## Test Yourself

First Correct answer wins a prize – answer to be published on the web site.

Can an employer force an employee to stay home or get tested for COVID 19?

Send your answer by email to: [newsletter@safetyscope.net](mailto:newsletter@safetyscope.net)

## This Months Tip: Far Hand Reach Technique

When drivers or passengers open a vehicle door from the inside to exit the vehicle, they should use the farthest hand from the door to open the door.

As you reach across your body to the door handle, your body swivels and you will automatically look at the side-view mirror and look back for oncoming traffic.

This simple technique will stop you from opening your door in front of an oncoming vehicle or bike.

**Think about it.**

## Safetyscope Upcoming courses

<b>Working at Heights</b>	Sept 4, 18
<b>W@H refresher</b>	Sept 11-25
<b>Confined Space Awareness</b>	Sept 14-15
<b>Confined Space Rescue</b>	TBA
<b>First Aid</b>	TBA
<b>Competent Supervisor</b>	TBA

**Contact Us** with your training needs [training@safetyscope.net](mailto:training@safetyscope.net)

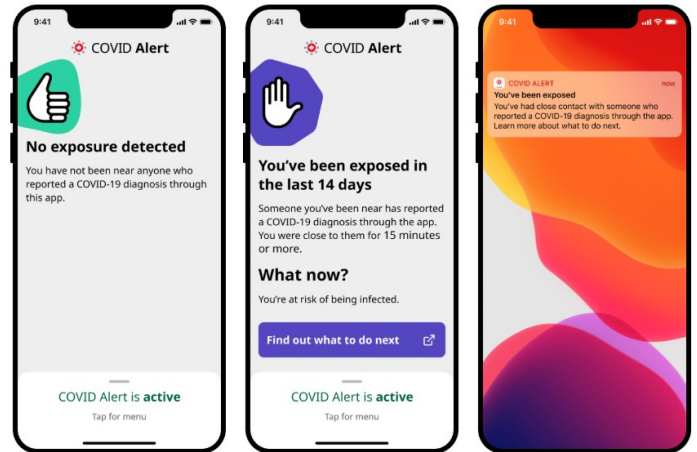
## Is the COVID Alert App Part of Your H&S Program?

Along with physical distancing, wearing a mask and other important steps, knowing what to do if you have been exposed to COVID-19 is critically important to those in your workplace and in your personal life.

But how do you know if workers been exposed to COVID-19? And, if they get sick, how can you make sure even workers they've been near take the right steps to protect themselves and others? That's where COVID Alert comes in.

The Alert app is completely voluntary. Workers could choose to download, use or delete it from their personal phones. But the more people who use it, the more effective it will be in helping to protect each other, our workplace and our communities.

If your workers have company phones this could another tool companies can use to improve the safety in their workplaces. Even if your organization doesn't fall under this group, it is something to promote .



### Why Download the COVID ALERT App

With the free COVID Alert app, workers can:

- get a notification if they may have been exposed to COVID-19
- get advice on what to do next
- tell nearby app users if they test positive for COVID-19, without sharing any personal information

Alert will not:

- collect, store or access any personal data, or health information
- tell you if you're currently near someone who's tested positive
- tell you about outbreaks in your city or neighbourhood

**Thank about it!**

## Falls Awareness Week: September 14-18

The MLTSD has put up guidance with regards to falls from heights and same-level falls which happen anywhere, anytime. Every year, falls result in a significant number of worker injuries and deaths, particularly in construction. But falls are preventable.

To help companies participating in Falls Awareness Week this year the MLTSD web site has put up sector specific resources to help designing successful falls safety talks. Plan ahead.

1. Review your fall prevention program.
2. Develop a safety talk that will meet your needs.
3. Decide when to hold the safety talk and how long it will last.
4. Promote the safety talk.
5. Hold your safety talk and follow up afterward.



To access these resources [Click Here](#).

### **Did Your Attention get Diverted?**

Amendments to two regulations under the OH&SA come into effect on January 1, 2020. This information should be old news but, COVID hit us in March and redirected all of our attention. If your workplace exposes workers to biological or chemical agents (Reg. 883/90) or to materials which are defined designated substances (Reg. 490/09), you should review the changes and ensure that your business is compliant .

Designated Substances Regulation 490/09—Workplaces which contain designated substances have for many years been required to have in place methods to assess worker exposure and to protect against such exposure by, amongst other things, the use of personal protective equipment, worker medical assessments and programs. The regulation does not apply to an employer at a construction project (s. 14).

An amendment to s. 15 of the regulation confirms that an employer to whom the regulation applies with respect to a designated substance must take “every precaution reasonable in the circumstances” to ensure the protection of its own workers, and also workers of others, who are in the workplace and whose health is likely to be affected by exposure to the designated substance. In other words, the same level of protection must be afforded to contractors and third party workers as with respect to a business’s own people.

As with the first regulation, there are changes to the manner of airborne measurement and calculation of worker exposure.

### **Do You Need to Update Your OH&S Act on your Health and Safety Board.**

Changes to the OH&S Act and Regulations occur every year. What's New for the 2020 Edition:

- As of July 1, 2019, several amendments were made to Reg. 851, with respect to the use of alternative procedures, the use of personal flotation devices and the use of antidotes, flushing fluids or washes in the case of eye injuries. Changes were also made in relation to offshore oil and gas installations.
- Control of Exposure to Biological or Chemical Agents and Designated Substances as of January 1, 2020, Reg. 833 and 490/09 were amended to introduce a new consolidated Medical Surveillance Code for designated substances, a new provision for measuring airborne substances for respiratory protection and a new method for calculating exposures to hazardous substances for irregular work shifts.
- Mines and Mining Plants as of July 1, 2019, numerous changes were made with respect to mines and mining plants under R.R.O., Reg. 854.
- Temporary Stairs in Construction Projects as of January 1, 2020, changes were made to clarify requirements for temporary stairs in construction projects under O. Reg. 213/91.
- Working at Heights Training and Construction Projects in Automotive Plants as of July 1, 2019, Regs. 297 and 213 were amended respectively in relation to working at heights training and construction in automotive plants.
- Offshore Oil and Gas as of July 1, 2019, several amendments were made to Reg. 855 with respect to life jackets and specific electrical equipment on offshore oil and gas installations.
- Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development the Ontario Government changed the name of the former Ministry of Labour (MOL) to reflect its expanded mandate.
- Online Certification Training the MOL announced that it would permit online training for Joint Health and Safety Certification, Part 1.
- Reg. 860, with respect to WHMIS 1988 supplier labels, in force January 21, 2019.
- Asbestos in Construction Projects, Buildings and Repair Operations O. Reg. 450/19, amending O. Reg. 278/05, with respect to frequency of medical examinations, in force January 1, 2020.

## Provincial Health and Safety Initiatives (as per MLTSD Website)

<p><b>Healthy workers in healthy workplaces – occupational disease</b></p> <p>What inspectors will focus on in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Construction</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Health care</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Industrial</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Mining</a></li> </ul>	<p><b>Phase 1: Education, outreach and awareness</b> October 1, 2020 to December 28, 2020 Compliance support with all health and safety associations</p> <p><b>Phase 2: Inspection blitz</b> November 2, 2020 to December 28, 2020 Focused inspections</p>
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## Construction Initiatives (as per MLTSD Website)

<p><b>Excavations and Utility Contacts</b></p> <p>What inspectors will focus on</p>	<p><b>Phase 1: Education, outreach and awareness</b> September 2, 2020 to November 2, 2020 Compliance support with the Infrastructure Health and Safety Association</p> <p><b>Phase 2: Inspection blitz</b> October 1, 2020 to November 2, 2020 Focused inspections</p>
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## Safetyscope’s Public Training Sessions

With our COVID-19 procedures in place, Safetyscope is now holding regular public training sessions in Working at Heights, Working at Heights Refresher and Confined Space Awareness.

If your organization requires any additional courses, please with your training needs at [training@safetyscope.net](mailto:training@safetyscope.net).

## Safetyscope Continuing to Maintaining Registration as an OWWCO Training Provider

These courses meet the criteria in subsection 29(4) of O.Reg. 128, Certification of Drinking Water System Operators and Water Quality Analysts. On Completion of training all participants will receive a certificate of completion with corresponding CEU Value.

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| 1. Working at Heights                      | .7 CEU  |
| 2. WHMIS 2015                              | .4 CEU  |
| 3. TDG                                     | .4 CEU  |
| 4. Working in Confined Spaces Rescue Level | 2.8 CEU |
| 5. Confined Spaces Attendant Non Entry     | 1.3 CEU |
| 6. Confined Spaces Advanced Awareness      | .7 CEU  |
| 7. Confined Spaces Attendant Refresher     | .7 CEU  |
| 8. Confined Spaces Rescue Refresher        | .7 CEU  |
| 9. Standard First Aid                      | 1.4 CEU |
| 10. Self Contained Breathing Apparatus     | .4 CEU  |
| 11. Spill Response                         | .7 CEU  |
| 12. Trenching Hazards                      | .4 CEU  |



**Safetyscope is a TSSA Approved Training Provider**

**Safetyscope is an approved provider for Corrections Canada**