



Ontario Food Terminal Board

Date: March 31, 2020

Bulletin: 1885

To: All Tenants and Buyers

Re: Temperature screening

On Wednesday, April 1, we will start a phased launch of our new temperature screening program beginning with all buyers and truckers entering the Terminal. This is an additional step in our widespread efforts to keep people safe and keep the Ontario Food Terminal operating during these extraordinary times.

Why are we temperature screening?

COVID-19 is serious and we know that it is now also spreading in the community and no longer just associated with international travel.

Public health officials have stated that body temperatures above 38C pose a risk. Temperature screening provides an extra layer of protection for you and your employees, especially in situations where someone may not be aware that they have a fever or who still chooses to come into work. It's a tool that's increasingly being used around the world in the fight against COVID-19.

We recognize this step is an inconvenience, but we cannot overstate enough how important it is that we take all measures possible to keep people safe and reduce the risk of disease spread. It's also critical to the ability of the Ontario Food Terminal to continue operations serving our sellers and buyers as essential businesses.

What is the procedure for taking temperatures and is it safe?

We have hired a specialized company with well-trained staff in the use of First Aid, AED and human body temperature reading. These staff will conduct the temperature checks. The thermometers are non-touch Infrared FLIR cameras that are highly reliable in spotting temperature anomalies. They are non-touch devices that are held close to the forehead but make no physical contact. All temperature screeners will be wearing masks, gloves, glasses and protective suits and following public health guidelines for best practices. We are not recording individual temperatures. Personal confidentiality will be maintained.

What happens if a person tested has a temperature over 38C?

If an individual seeking entry to the OFT is found with a temperature reading of over 38C, a second temperature measurement will be taken. If both readings are over 38C, that individual will not be allowed to enter the Terminal and will be advised to contact Toronto Public Health (416-338-7600), Telehealth Ontario (1-866-797-0000) or their primary health care provider for further screening.

The presence of a fever is not a diagnosis of COVID-19 as a fever could be due to other underlying factors, but it is a risk factor that cannot be ignored. Similarly, a person could have no fever but still have the COVID-19 virus in an asymptomatic form and so all other protocols must be strictly observed after entry.

What if a person declines to have their temperature taken?

Individuals may decline to have their temperature taken but they will not be permitted on the premises of the OFT in that case. An exception will be made for any individual that has their own temperature reading device, such as a thermometer, and is able to acceptably demonstrate that their temperature is within the normal range.

For our full COVID-19 protocol, visit www.oftb.com/covid-19
Questions about this protocol? Call us (416) 259-5479 or info@oftb.com