



Regional Geriatric Program
of Eastern Ontario

Home Deliveries during the **COVID-19** Pandemic: What you can do to stay safe

When a delivery comes to your door, follow these steps to help reduce the spread of germs.

Before a delivery:

	Review how to properly wash your hands with soap and water or sanitizer for at least 20 seconds. According to Ottawa Public Health, this is the best way to reduce the spread of germs.
	Have cleaning supplies ready, like sanitizing wipes or household disinfectants. You can also use a diluted bleach solution (2 teaspoons of bleach to 4 cups of water).
	Set up a clean surface (such as a small table) for your deliveries. The surface should be easy to reach, easy to clean and large enough for your deliveries. This is the "delivery table."
	Set up a second clean surface (such as a small table) for your deliveries once they have been sanitized. This is the "clean table."
	When possible, pre-pay for the delivery by phone or online so that you do not have to sign for it or use a payment machine when it arrives. Do not pay with cash.

During the delivery:

	Ask the delivery person to leave the item at the door.
	Ask the delivery person call you or knock on your door to let you know your item has arrived. Make sure the delivery person steps back from the door 6 feet or 2 metres so you can get your item.
	If you must pay at the door, pay by debit or credit card (tap if possible). Clean your card and sanitize your hands right away.

After the delivery:

	Open the package outside if you can. If not, pick up the package and place on your "delivery table."
	Open the package.
	Clean the outside of delivered items using sanitizing wipes or household disinfectant.
	Clean fruits and vegetables with running water only.
	Once clean, put your sanitized items on your "clean table."
	Throw out of any bags/boxes in a garbage bag or recycling.
	Sanitize your "delivery table" and other things you may have touched. This could include taps, light switches door handles, garbage and recycling bins, etc.
	Wash or sanitize your hands.
	Put your delivered items away.
	Wash or sanitize your hands.

Other ways to reduce the spread of germs

- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth unless you have just cleaned your hands.
- Cover your cough and sneeze with a tissue or into your arm, not your hand.
- If possible, stay home if you are sick.
- Practice **physical (social) distancing** (ideally 2 meters).

Greater risk for older adults

Adults older than 65 are at greater risk of getting sick. They are also at greater risk of having significant health complications if they get COVID-19. Right now, there is no vaccine for COVID-19, and no one has built-in protection if they get sick.

Stay home when possible

Avoid going shopping. Ask your family or friends to deliver your groceries and medications to you or use an online delivery service.

Clean surfaces properly

COVID-19 can live on surfaces such as metal, glass or plastic for up to 9 days. Sanitize surfaces in your home, including cellphones and tablets, on a regular basis.

More Information about COVID-19

Visit the **Ottawa Public Health website** for up-to-date information about COVID-19.

It's OK NOT to be OK

Fear and anxiety about the COVID-19 pandemic can be overwhelming and cause strong emotions. It's OK to NOT be OK. Please know that help is available, and we encourage you to reach out to **Distress Centre of Ottawa** to connect with someone at 613-238-3311.