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POLICE WILL BE ENFORCING NON-COMPLAINT GATHERINGS

As we head into the holiday season, Oshawa Mayor Dan Carter reminds everyone that the next six weeks are crucial to helping stop the spread of COVID-19 and keeping our local economy running.

In a video message to the community, Mayor Carter says Ontario continues to see a record number of cases. As a result, on November 16, Durham Region, including Oshawa, moved into the Orange-Restrict category of the provincial framework.

Mayor Carter urges community members to follow health authority guidelines and government orders by committing to these four steps to help stop the spread:

Stay home – limit trips outside of home to essential reasons like work, school, grocery shopping and medical appointments.

Stay apart – Maintain two

metres distance from anyone who doesn't live with you or is not your essential caregiver.

Mask up – Wear a non-medical mask when it is difficult to maintain physical distance and where masks are mandatory.

Lather up – Wash your hands often with soap and water or use hand sanitizer. With the COVID-19 numbers continuing to rise across the province, residents are reminded to adhere to the rules around social gatherings in Ontario. Currently gatherings are limited to 10 people indoors and 25 people outdoors. This includes outdoor spaces such as parks and school yards; students and guardians are reminded to head home after school pickup and avoid large gatherings.

Police will be enforcing non-complaint gatherings in Durham Region and issuing tickets when necessary.

Those found in violation could face a fine. Citizens can report a gathering of more than 10 people indoors, 25 people outdoors, or a non-compliant business on www.drps.ca under Online Services - Community Concerns. As a secondary option, citizens can call the DRPS non-emergency line at 1-888-579-1520, ext. 5802 and leave a message. The DRPS will endeavor to respond to these calls in a timely manner, however, our focus continues to be on emergency calls for service.

Since the pandemic began in mid-March 2020 there has been a significant decline in all crime categories compared with the same time period last year. Assaults and sexual assaults have seen the greatest decline among violent crime, while theft reports have experienced the greatest drop among property crimes. Collisions also saw a sharp

decline. All areas began moving toward a normal range by late summer and continue to do so.

Earlier this month, DRPS issued its first ticket under the Quarantine Act after a resident of Pickering was found to be non-compliant with quarantine measures after returning from another country.

Since March, there have been approximately 3,211 calls for non-compliance issues related to COVID-19 (gatherings, non-compliant businesses etc.). Please continue to socially distance, avoid unnecessary gatherings and continue to wear a mask wherever they are mandated.

Following our last update on September 25, 2020, one more DRPS member tested positive for COVID-19, bringing the total number to 6; all have since recovered. A reminder that for the safety of

all motorists, DRPS will be maintaining physical distancing and wearing personal protective equipment (PPE) when conducting roadside impaired investigations.

For the most up-to-date public information about COVID-19 in Durham Region, refer to www.durham.ca/NovelCoronavirus. Citizens can contact Durham Public Health via email at health@durham.ca, or by phone at 1-800-841-2729 or 905-668-2020. The Region of Durham's website has a comprehensive list of community services: <https://www.durham.ca/en/regional-government/covid-19-community-resources.aspx> For information about supports for victims of crime, please visit <https://victimservicesdurham.ca/> for Victim Services of Durham Region.

Youth who need support or assistance can use Kids Help Home by visiting <https://kidshelp.ca/>

shelpphone.ca/ or calling 1-800-668-6868.

Call the Stop the Spread Business Information Line at 1-888-444-3659 for clarification whether a situation falls under the non-compliance orders. Assistance is available Monday to Sunday, from 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. For more information visit: ontario.ca/stopthespread.

DRPS officers continue to patrol your communities to keep them safe and respond to emergencies as they arise. Like the rest of the community, we are practicing physical distancing and following personal protective protocols as required.

In emergencies, please call 9-1-1. If you want to contact us about a non-emergency, please call 1-888-579-1520. You can report less serious crimes on our website www.drps.ca under Online Services.

AJAX COUNCIL PROVIDING SECOND ROUND OF COVID-19 SPECIAL RESPONSE FUNDING

\$25,000 available to support community groups during the holidays Ajax Council and the Town will be providing \$25,000 in funding to groups delivering vital services and programming to our community's most vulnerable in Ajax during the COVID-19 pandemic. The COVID-19 Special Response Fund can be accessed by not-for-profit organizations, community groups and charities providing COVID-19 relief to individuals and families in Ajax during the holidays. This includes operations that provide meal, grocery and prescription medication deliveries (i.e. holiday hampers, hot meal programs), arts and educational support (home art kits, puzzles, cognitive games & activities), mental health and well-being services (i.e. toy, clothing and food drives). Groups can apply for up to \$5,000. A simple, easy form can be completed online at ajax.ca/covid19. "Ajax Council was proud to support our local community groups and not-for-profits in their efforts to combat the effects of COVID-19 during the first wave response. We are reaffirming our commitment to our community, through the ongoing second wave, by opening a second round of funding. We are pleased to partner with organizations that are going above and beyond to ensure that our most vulnerable receive the support that they need during this unprecedented and unpredictable time. We stand with our neighbours and community. We are stronger together." - Mayor Shaun Collier, Town of Ajax

Quick Facts

The first round of the COVID-19 Special Response Fund occurred April 2020.

Applications open November 10, 2020.

Funding must be spent by December 31, 2020

TOA staff will be holding virtual office hours on Thursday, November 12 from 2-3 p.m. to assist applicants.

TOA Staff will also be holding a drop-in session on Zoom for organizations looking to apply on November 12 at 2 p.m.

Applications close November 16, 2020.

Those who received funding in the first round of the COVID-19 Special Response Fund are not eligible to apply for the second round of funding.

The Town of Ajax remains open for business. For a complete list of service reductions and helpful links, visit ajax.ca/COVID19.