



THE CENTRAL



NEWSPAPER

CORONA CENTRAL DAILY REPORT:

ALL THE LATEST CORONA NEWS ~ READ ABOUT IT RIGHT HERE ~

| Total Confirmed Cases of COVID-19 in Durham Region Residents <h2>1020</h2> | | New COVID-19 Cases Reported Since Yesterday <h2>25</h2> | New Deaths Reported Since Yesterday <h2>6</h2> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|--------------|-------|--|---|-----------|-----|------|-----|--------|-----|--------|-----|------------|----|----------|----|--------|---|-------|---|----------------------|-------------|
| Total Cases in Home Isolation* (includes residents in LTCHs and RHs) <h2>350</h2> | Total Resolved <h2>510</h2> | Number of Cases by Municipality | <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Municipality</th> <th>Cases</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pickering</td> <td>388</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ajax</td> <td>266</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Whitby</td> <td>100</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Oshawa</td> <td>167</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Clarington</td> <td>62</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Uxbridge</td> <td>27</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Scugog</td> <td>7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Brock</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Durham Region</td> <td>1020</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | Municipality | Cases | | 1 | Pickering | 388 | Ajax | 266 | Whitby | 100 | Oshawa | 167 | Clarington | 62 | Uxbridge | 27 | Scugog | 7 | Brock | 2 | Durham Region | 1020 |
| Municipality | Cases | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Pickering | 388 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Ajax | 266 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Whitby | 100 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Oshawa | 167 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Clarington | 62 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Uxbridge | 27 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Scugog | 7 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Brock | 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Durham Region | 1020 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Total Currently Hospitalized* <h2>41</h2> | Total in ICU* <h2>4</h2> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Total Deceased* <h2>119</h2> | Total Deceased LTCH and RH Residents* <h2>102</h2> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

May 5, 2020

387 new coronavirus cases, 61 deaths in Ontario as total cases rise to 18,310

Ontario reported 387 new cases of the novel coronavirus on Tuesday, bringing the provincial total to 18,310 cases.

May 2, 2020

421 new coronavirus cases in Ontario, total rises to 16,608 cases with 1,121 deaths

Ontario reported 421 new cases of the novel coronavirus on Friday, and an additional 39 deaths, bringing the provincial total to 16,608 cases.

May 2, 2020

Coronavirus: Ontario allows certain businesses, workplaces to reopen May 4

Some businesses permitted to start back up include seasonal businesses and some essential construction projects.

May 2, 2020

Mayor Carter's weekly video message for May 1

Join us for Live at Five every Tuesday and Thursday and watch for weekly video updates every Friday.

In his weekly video message for Friday, May 1, Oshawa Mayor Dan Carter recaps the City of Oshawa's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including steps to ensure business continuity and contain expenditures.

Mayor Carter talks about the inaugural meeting of the Mayor's Economic Recovery Task Force and encourages community members to support the local economy's recovery by buying local and supporting local businesses.

Mayor Carter invites community members to join him for the City's first virtual town hall on Wednesday, May 6 at 6:30 p.m. Community members can take part by calling in toll free, using a desktop or laptop computer, or using the WebEx Meetings app on their mobile device. More information is available at www.oshawa.ca/connect.

Mayor Carter also invites those on Instagram to join him for "Live at Five" on Thursdays and Thursdays at 5:00 p.m. on the City's Instagram account (@cityofoshawa). Questions and stories of support can be shared during Instagram Live or emailed in advance to Mayor@oshawa.ca.

Mayor Carter can be reached at Mayor@oshawa.ca. To view today's video message, visit and subscribe to the City's YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/OshawaCity.

For more information on how to participate in the City's virtual town halls, Instagram Lives and to subscribe to receive COVID-19 updates and videos, visit www.oshawa.ca/connect.

For the City's latest COVID-19 updates and F.A.Q.s, visit www.oshawa.ca/coronavirus.

Although our City facilities are temporarily closed to the public, Service Oshawa is available online, over the phone or by email.

Phone: 905-436-3311

Email: service@oshawa.ca

Online Services: service.oshawa.ca

Community members concerned about their health are asked to use the Ontario COVID-19 self-assessment tool to determine if they need to seek care or refer to Lakeridge Health's COVID-19 Assessment Clinic.

May 2, 2020

Ontario reports 511 new coronavirus cases, 55 deaths as total cases top 17K

Fifty-five new deaths were reported Saturday, bringing the total fatalities attributed to coronavirus in Ontario to 1,176.

May 1, 2020

Durham Region Notice: Increased COVID-19 testing in Durham's shelter system

The Region of Durham is welcoming provincial direction to increase testing in priority populations, including homeless shelters and warming centres.

Durham Region Health Department is planning to increase testing at shelter locations, as it is important to assess the current COVID-19 status of this vulnerable population.

As the increased testing may result in an increase in active cases and possible declaration of outbreak at one or more shelter settings, it is important to identify positive COVID-19 cases early to help manage and prevent further outbreak.

With the support of Public Health and Paramedic Services, all of Cornerstone's shelter, transitional and Community Residential Facility clients were voluntarily tested for COVID-19 this week. With their co-operation, they are helping the Region to stay #DurhamStrong and #FlattenTheCurve.

Since the onset of COVID-19 in the community, the Region of Durham has been actively co-ordinating and enhancing supports for unsheltered residents, including:

- Working with community partners to open access to public washroom and shower facilities.

- Made support funding available for not-for-profit organizations providing homelessness supports.

- We expanded the mandate of the overnight warming centres to support the shelter system.

- Working with shelter operators and public health officials to ensure that staff, volunteers and guests are doing everything they can to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and support clients who have symptoms.

- Secured hotel partnerships to expand capacity of the shelter system to ensure physical distancing, isolation of at-risk clients, and isolation of clients pending test results.

Please visit durham.ca/EmergencyShelters to learn more about the options available for those who require assistance. Information about emergency supports for unsheltered residents is updated daily online through The Gap Committee.

Individuals who wish to access these services are also advised that these support agencies are following the advice of the Region's Health Department, to help prevent the spread of illness. This includes practising proper hand hygiene and social distancing; coughing or sneezing into one's sleeve or a tissue; active screening by staff at entrances; and increasing cleaning and disinfecting measures.

Durham Region residents should follow trusted sources of information to stay informed. For a full list of impacts to Regional programs and services, visit durham.ca/ServiceChanges. Get the most up-to-date information about COVID-19 in Durham Region at durham.ca/NovelCoronavirus.

Quotes

"The increased testing in congregate settings such as shelters and warming centres will help us more effectively identify and contain cases among at risk groups. Increased identification of cases is an important step in ensuring that we address the needs of our vulnerable populations to help reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19 in these community settings."

- Dr. Robert Kyle, Medical Officer of Health

"Since the beginning of the pandemic, our staff and community partners moved quickly and diligently to put in place necessary precautions to limit the spread of COVID-19 in the Region's homeless shelters and warming centres. By increasing the testing and surveillance of this vulnerable population, we can ensure that those who have COVID-19 are identified, isolated and cared for to prevent the spread. Although an increase in surveillance usually results in an increase in active cases, being aware of these cases allows us to address the situation as effectively and efficiently as possible."

- Stella Danos-Papaconstantinou, Commissioner of Social Services

May 1, 2020

City to host virtual town hall to answer your COVID-19 questions

Oshawa residents, business owners and community members are encouraged to join the City for a virtual Town Hall every other Wednesday to ask questions, listen in and learn more about the City's efforts during this difficult time.

When: The first virtual town hall will occur Wednesday, May 6 at 6:30 p.m.

How: There are three different ways to access the virtual town halls:

- By calling the toll free phone number and entering the May 6 access code followed by #. If you are choosing to dial in, you will not be able to ask questions during the virtual town hall, but can submit them before the call to communications@oshawa.ca.

- Using a desktop or laptop computer, visit <https://oshawa.webex.com> and enter the May 6 access code to join the meeting followed by the event password. If you are choosing to access the virtual town hall on a desktop or laptop computer, you will be able to ask questions during the virtual town hall through the Q&A tool.

- Download the WebEx Meetings app on a mobile device, select Join Meeting and enter the May 6 access code. You may be asked to enter the event password. If you are choosing to access the virtual town hall through a mobile device, you will be able to ask questions during the virtual town hall through the Q&A tool.

Additional information on how to join the virtual town halls is available at www.oshawa.ca/connect. Community members choosing to access via computer or mobile app are encouraged to test before to ensure they don't miss a minute during the event!

What: Use the following access numbers for the May 6 Virtual Town Hall:

Toll free number: 1-833-311-4101
May 6 access code: 715 608 494
Password: 12345

Note that access codes will be different for each event.

Why: It's a chance for the community to become part of the conversation: ask questions, listen in, and learn more about community efforts during this difficult time.

The City continues to post updates to its webpage at www.oshawa.ca/coronavirus. Visit the webpage for the latest updates on City closures, meeting cancellations and changes to services, as well as frequently asked questions and resources.

For updates from the City of Oshawa, subscribe to receive Public Notices via email and connect with us on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and YouTube.

Community members concerned about their health are asked to use the Ontario COVID-19 self-assessment tool to determine if they need to seek care or refer to Lakeridge Health's COVID-19 Assessment Clinic

May 1, 2020

421 new coronavirus cases in Ontario, total rises to 16,608 cases with 1,121 deaths

Ontario reported 421 new cases of the novel coronavirus on Friday, and an additional 39 deaths, bringing the provincial total to 16,608 cases.

May 1, 2020

Mayor Carter's weekly video message for May 1

In his weekly video message for Friday, May 1, Oshawa Mayor Dan Carter recaps the City of Oshawa's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including steps to ensure business continuity and contain expenditures.

Mayor Carter talks about the inaugural meeting of the Mayor's Economic Recovery Task Force and encourages community members to support the local economy's recovery by buying local and supporting local businesses.

Mayor Carter invites community members to join him for the City's first virtual town hall on Wednesday, May 6 at 6:30 p.m. Community members can take part by calling in toll free, using a desktop or laptop computer, or using the WebEx Meetings app on their mobile device. More information is available at www.oshawa.ca/connect.

Mayor Carter also invites those on Instagram to join him for "Live at Five" on Thursdays and Fridays at 5:00 p.m. on the City's Instagram account (@cityofoshawa). Questions and stories of support can be shared during Instagram Live or emailed in advance to Mayor@oshawa.ca.

Mayor Carter can be reached at Mayor@oshawa.ca. To view today's video message, visit and subscribe to the City's YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/OshawaCity.

For more information on how to participate in the City's virtual town halls, Instagram Lives and to subscribe to receive COVID-19 updates and videos, visit www.oshawa.ca/connect.

For the City's latest COVID-19 updates and F.A.Q.s, visit www.oshawa.ca/coronavirus.

Although our City facilities are temporarily closed to the public, Service Oshawa is available online, over the phone or by email.

Phone: 905-436-3311
Email: service@oshawa.ca
Online Services: service.oshawa.ca

Community members concerned about their health are asked to use the Ontario COVID-19 self-assessment tool to determine if they need to seek care or refer to Lakeridge Health's COVID-19 Assessment Clinic.

May 1, 2020

Coronavirus: Ontario allows certain businesses, workplaces to reopen May 4

Some businesses permitted to start back up include seasonal businesses and some essential construction projects.

April 28, 2020

Mayor's Economic Recovery Task Force holds inaugural virtual meeting

On Friday April 24, 2020 Oshawa Mayor Dan Carter and Regional Councillor Tito-Dante Marimpietri, Chair of the Development Services Committee, held the inaugural meeting of the Mayor's Economic Recovery Task Force. Chaired by Councillor Marimpietri, the Task Force includes representatives from a broad spectrum of the local economy including its public sector and post-secondary institutions, small and main-street businesses, the development and real estate community and key economic sectors.

The mandate of the Task Force is to assist Oshawa City Council and staff to better understand the impacts that the COVID-19 crisis is having on the local business community. The Task Force will also review and provide advice to City Council on issues and opportunities related to the full recovery and ongoing transformation of the City's economy.

Members of the Task Force reported operational and financial impacts that have never before been experienced including widespread layoffs and uncertainty over the ability to maintain payroll and rent obligations. Task Force members noted that the local economy is tenuous and that the landscape is changing at a rapid pace that drives uncertainty.

Task Force members shared their experiences and identified common challenges and impacts directly related to the COVID-19 crisis, including financial pressures associated with commercial rent and utility payments, labour interruptions resulting from layoffs or temporary closures to their businesses, and not having a clear understanding of government resources and supports available to them such as sub-

sidy programs.

Task Force members offered their thoughts on various opportunities and actions at all levels of government which will be further reviewed in the coming weeks.

Oshawa businesses are encouraged to contact Oshawa Economic Development Services at business@oshawa.ca. For more information on Economic Development Services, visit www.oshawa.ca/business and follow @InvestOshawa on Twitter.

Additional information and resources are available on the Region of Durham's website at www.investdurham.ca/covidresponse.

"With the Economic Recovery Task Force now in place, the City of Oshawa can continue to focus and increase efforts to help the Oshawa business community during these challenging times," said Oshawa Mayor Dan Carter. "Chaired by Councillor Marimpietri and comprised of representatives from a broad spectrum of the local economy, the Task Force is actively working to understand and overcome the economic challenges that our local business community is facing as the result of the impacts from the COVID-19 crisis."

"The Economic Recovery Task Force is committed to supporting Oshawa businesses," said Regional Councillor Tito-Dante Marimpietri, Chair of the Mayor's Economic Recovery Task Force and Chair of the Development Services Committee. "The Task Force provides a framework to respond to the evolving economic challenges of COVID-19 and help our local businesses by cultivating and advancing transformational ideas, while ensuring that we are prepared to embrace strategic actions and vital opportunities related to the full recovery of Oshawa's economy."

April 28, 2020

Durham Region Notice: Durham Health implements Ontario's COVID-19 plan for protecting long-term care homes

Durham Region Health Department is implementing the Ontario government's COVID-19 Action Plan for Protecting Long-Term Care Homes, to help address the increasing concerns of COVID-19 in area long-term care homes. This plan includes aggressive testing, screening and surveillance for COVID-19 for residents and staff in long-term care homes.

"Long-term care homes across Durham Region have been hit hard and have seen many tragic outcomes associated with the spread of COVID-19," said Dr. Robert Kyle, Durham Region Medical Officer of Health. "While Health Department staff continue to work very closely with all area long-term care homes and retirement homes to offer guidance and information to help reduce the risks for both residents and staff, this plan will provide additional measures to further address COVID-19 concerns in the long-term care sector."

The most recent direction from the Ontario Ministry of Health is to conduct surveillance testing for residents and staff in all long-term care homes across Ontario; this will involve testing for COVID-19 in people who do not have symptoms. In Durham Region, long-term care homes and retirement homes that are currently in outbreak are being prioritized for this additional surveillance testing. There are approximately 2,700 residents and 3,500 health care worker staff in long-term care homes in Durham Region and the Health Department is working as quickly as possible to prioritize and test all homes.

The latest information about COVID-19 and Durham Region long-term care homes is available online in the Durham Region COVID-19 Data Tracker at durham.ca/covidcases. For more information from the province visit ontario.ca/coronavirus. For information on Durham Region Health Department's COVID-19 response, visit durham.ca/novelcoronavirus.

April 28, 2020

Region recognizes Canada's National Day of Mourning

Whitby, Ontario – Today, John Henry, Regional Chair and Chief Executive Officer made the following statement:

"Today marks Canada's National Day of Mourning; an opportunity to remember and honour the lives of those who were injured, suffered illness or died because of something that happened at work.

It is today that many employers reconfirm their commitment to the health, safety and well-being of their company's greatest asset: their employees.

My thoughts are with those who have suffered a workplace-related incident. In 2020, we also recognize our frontline and essential workers, who are providing services during a global pandemic. You are all heroes. Your commitment and dedication are recognized and exceptional.

We're in this together; showcasing #Durham Strong."

April 28, 2020

525 new coronavirus cases in Ontario, total surpasses 15,000 cases with 951 deaths

Ontario reported 525 new cases of the novel coronavirus on Tuesday and 59 additional deaths, bringing the provincial total to 15,381 cases.

April 27, 2020

424 new coronavirus cases in Ontario, total reaches 14,856 with 892 deaths

Ontario reported 424 new cases of the novel coronavirus on Monday and 57 additional deaths, bringing the provincial total to 14,856 cases.

April 27, 2020

Save the date: Connect with the City for COVID-19 updates

The City of Oshawa is committed to ensuring that we inform and connect with our residents, businesses and community members during the COVID-19 pandemic. Updates are available on a variety of City channels on set days and times. Read on to learn where and when you can tune in for the latest updates on how the City is responding to COVID-19 and details regarding our new virtual Town Halls. Additional information is available at www.oshawa.ca/connect.

Virtual Town Halls, every other Wednesday

Oshawa residents, business owners and community members are encouraged to join Mayor Carter every other Wednesday for a virtual Town Hall. Beginning May 6 at 6:30 p.m., Mayor Carter will provide updates and respond to questions received from the community. The virtual Town Hall can be accessed online or by calling in. To learn more, visit www.oshawa.ca/connect.

Live at Five, every Tuesday and Thursday

Community members on Instagram are invited to chat with Mayor Carter during Live at Five, taking place Tuesdays and Thursdays at 5:00 p.m. on the City's Instagram account (@cityofoshawa). Questions and stories can be shared during Instagram Live or emailed in advance to mayor@oshawa.ca. Follow the City on Instagram and turn on notifications for Live videos to receive an alert when the Live video begins.

Video Updates, every Friday

Look for video updates from Mayor Carter every Friday on the City's COVID-19 webpage and Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and YouTube. The videos will provide an update on the past week and highlight anything to watch for in the coming days.

Email Subscription Options

Let City of Oshawa information come to you! Subscribe to Public Notices and News Releases to have the latest COVID-19 updates and videos to be delivered to your email. Additionally, sign up to receive updates specific to your neighbourhood by selecting your ward news. What's my ward? Find out now. Subscribe now at www.oshawa.ca/subscribe.

Newspaper, Radio and Television

Tune into local radio and television or pick up a copy of an Oshawa newspaper for updates from the City of Oshawa and Mayor Carter.

Service Oshawa

Although our City facilities are temporarily closed to the public, City staff continue to serve the community.

Service Oshawa is available Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. (on business days) by:

Phone: 905-436-3311

Email: service@oshawa.ca

Live Chat: www.oshawa.ca/city-hall/Contact-Us

Online Services: www.oshawa.ca/online-services

Coronavirus webpage: www.oshawa.ca/coronavirus

“During these uncertain times, the City of Oshawa's number one priority is the health and safety of our community and staying connected with you. We continue to ensure that we are keeping residents, local businesses and community partners informed and that we are answering your questions. Connect with us online and join us for a virtual town hall,” said Oshawa Mayor Dan Carter.

April 27, 2020

Coronavirus: Ontario releases gradual reopening plan, though no dates provided

Even after the plan has been completed, the final stage says there will be the “continued practice of physical distancing” and “significant mitigation plans” to limit health risks.

April 25, 2020

Durham Region Notice: The fight isn't over; #StayHome and flatten the curve with these new online resources

The Region of Durham has been inspired by how the community has come together to support one another during this unprecedented time. Thank you for your efforts to stay home, physical distance and help flatten the curve.

Our collective efforts are making a difference, however the fight is far from over. It is now more important than ever to stay home and practise physical distancing to keep up the positive momentum.

To help residents join in on this collective effort, the Region of Durham has created durham.ca/StayHome. This new webpage has helpful resources on a wide range of subjects to help you stay home, such as fitness, mental health, learning opportunities, digital offerings from local libraries, and more.

There are also downloadable colouring pages that residents can print at home for a fun kid-friendly activity, or simply for a mental break. The colouring pages cover many themes including long-term care, frontline heroes, public works, transit, local business, and more.

When your creations are done, please share them on social media with the hashtags #DurhamStrong and #StayHome. You can also email them to DurhamStrong@durham.ca, and they will be shared with our staff to help keep them smiling!

Follow the Region of Durham on Facebook or Twitter to join the conversation and see how your friends, family and neighbours are staying #DurhamStrong while they #StayHome.

“I am so inspired by the way we have joined together as a community to fight this pandemic. Whether it's sharing your good news stories and inspirations on social media, helping others in need, or simply saying thank you—we are showing what it means to be #DurhamStrong. Let's all continue to stay home and do our part. We will get through this together.”

- John Henry, Regional Chair and Chief Executive Officer

April 24, 2020

Mayor Carter's video message for April 24

In his Friday, April 24 message, Oshawa Mayor Dan Carter reminds community members that Council resumes its regular meeting schedule on Monday, April 27 at 9:30 a.m. Council meetings can be watched online at www.oshawa.ca/webcasts. For Council meeting dates, dates, agendas and minutes, view the City Meetings Calendar.

Mayor Carter also talks about changes to his video update and “Live at Five” schedule. Ongoing updates on how the City of Oshawa is addressing impacts from COVID-19 are available in a variety of formats on set days and times, ensuring that the community is able to receive informative updates in a platform that works best for them.

The new addition to the lineup is the virtual Town Hall. Starting Wednesday, May 6 at 6:30 p.m., join Mayor Carter every other Wednesday to ask questions and receive updates. The virtual Town Hall can be accessed online or by calling in. More information will be available in the coming days at www.oshawa.ca/connect.

Mayor Carter can be reached at Mayor@oshawa.ca. To view today's video message, visit and subscribe to the City's YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/OshawaCity.

Chat with Mayor Carter for “Live at Five” tonight (Friday, April 24) at 5:00 p.m. on the City's Instagram account (@cityofoshawa). Starting the next week, Live at Five will run Tuesday and Thursday nights. Questions and stories can be shared during Instagram Live or emailed in advance to Mayor@oshawa.ca. Follow the City on Instagram and turn on notifications for Live videos to receive an alert when the Live begins.

#OurOshawa

Community members are encouraged to share their stories, photos and videos of kindness and support they have seen amid COVID-19 on social media using #OurOshawa. Those looking to spread positive messages even further are encouraged to use #OshawaStrong, #OshawaProud and #DurhamStrong.

Information and City Updates

The City continues to post updates and F.A.Q.s to its COVID-19 webpage: www.oshawa.ca/coronavirus. Although our City facilities are temporarily closed to the public, Service Oshawa is available online, over the phone or by email.

Phone: 905-436-3311

Email: service@oshawa.ca

Online Services: service.oshawa.ca

Community members concerned about their health are asked to use the Ontario COVID-19 self-assessment tool to determine if they need to seek care or refer to Lakeridge Health's COVID-19 Assessment Clinic.

April 24, 2020

Ontario reports 640 new coronavirus cases, total reaches 13,519 with 763 deaths

Ontario reported 640 new cases of the novel coronavirus on Friday and 50 additional deaths, bringing the provincial total to 13,519 cases.

April 23, 2020

Mayor Carter's video message for April 23

In his Thursday, April 23 message, Oshawa Mayor Dan Carter continues to urge community members to follow government orders not to gather in groups of more than five people and health authority guidelines to stay home as much as possible and maintain physical distancing to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

Mayor Carter can be reached at Mayor@oshawa.ca. To view today's video message, visit and subscribe to the City's YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/OshawaCity.

Instagram Live

Join Mayor Carter this evening for "Live at Five" at 5:00 p.m. on the City's Instagram account (@cityofoshawa). Questions and stories can be shared during Instagram Live or emailed in advance to Mayor@oshawa.ca. Follow the City on Instagram and turn on notifications for Live videos to receive an alert when the Live begins.

#OurOshawa

Community members are encouraged to share their stories, photos and videos of support they have seen amid COVID-19 on social media using #OurOshawa. Those looking to spread positive messages even further are encouraged to use #OshawaStrong, #OshawaProud and #DurhamStrong.

Information and City Updates

The City continues to post updates and F.A.Q.s to its COVID-19 webpage: www.oshawa.ca/coronavirus.

Although our City facilities are temporarily closed to the public, Service Oshawa is available online, over the phone or by email.

Phone: 905-436-3311

Email: service@oshawa.ca

Online Services: service.oshawa.ca

Community members concerned about their health are asked to use the Ontario COVID-19 self-assessment tool to determine if they need to seek care or refer to Lakeridge Health's COVID-19 Assessment Clinic.

April 23, 2020

634 new coronavirus cases in Ontario, total rises to 12,879 with 713 deaths

Ontario reported 634 new cases of the novel coronavirus on Thursday and 54 additional deaths, bringing the provincial total to 12,879 cases.

April 23, 2020

Durham Region Notice: Durham Region sets up fund to help vulnerable residents during COVID-19

The Region of Durham is releasing support funding in response to the growing needs in Durham's homelessness support system during COVID-19.

The COVID-19 Community Assistance Fund is available as a one-time allocation for not-for-profit organizations in Durham Region that are providing urgent help to vulnerable residents, homeless residents and residents at risk of homelessness who are impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

To apply for funding, your agency must be:

Incorporated as a not-for-profit organization.

Able to sign a Reaching Home: Canada's Homelessness Strategy or Ontario Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI) agreement.

Located in the Region of Durham.

Providing supports for homeless residents in Durham Region.

Eligible requests and expenses, include:

Expenses associated with the provision of basic needs (such as food services or transportation costs).

Staffing costs to increase level of service or maintain level of service.

Expenses that increase or maintain service delivery due to COVID-19 (such as costs for additional cleaning services).

Emergency supplies, equipment or personal protective items.

Unbudgeted expenses that support the development of enhanced service delivery in response to client need (such as technology purchases and upgrades).

Priority will be given to applications that support the health and safety, shelter, housing security or food security for vulnerable residents, homeless residents or residents at-risk of homelessness.

The Region of Durham, as Service Manager, is using contributions from the Community Homeless Prevention Initiative (CHPI) and Reaching Home: Canada's Homelessness Strategy to provide this funding. The CHPI has received funding support from the Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. Reaching Home has received funding support from the Government of Canada.

For more information about the COVID-19 Community Assistance Fund, please visit durham.ca/Covid19CommunityFund.

"The homeless population is one of the most vulnerable populations in Durham. This pandemic has resulted in them requiring even more support during this unprecedented time. The Region is proud to be able to allocate these funds to help those organizations who are stepping up to help these at-risk individuals in our community."

- John Henry, Regional Chair and Chief Executive Officer

April 22, 2020

Mayor Carter's video message for April 22

In his Wednesday, April 22 message, Oshawa Mayor Dan Carter takes a step back from his regular update on COVID-19 to extend his condolences on behalf of the City of Oshawa to the families of those who lost their lives in the tragic events that took place in Nova Scotia on Sunday, April 19, 2020.

Mayor Carter talks about Dawn and Frank who were longtime Oshawa residents and says the City stands together with their family as well as everyone in our community who has lost a loved one to COVID-19.

Mayor Carter can be reached at Mayor@oshawa.ca. To view today's video message, visit and subscribe to the City's YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/OshawaCity.

#OurOshawa

Community members are encouraged to share their stories, photos and videos of support they have seen amid COVID-19 on social media using #OurOshawa. Those looking to spread positive messages even further are encouraged to use #OshawaStrong, #OshawaProud and #DurhamStrong.

Information and City Updates

The City continues to post updates and F.A.Q.s to its COVID-19 webpage: www.oshawa.ca/coronavirus.

Although our City facilities are temporarily closed to the public, Service Oshawa is available online, over the phone or by email.

Phone: 905-436-3311

Email: service@oshawa.ca

Online Services: service.oshawa.ca

Community members concerned about their health are asked to use the Ontario COVID-19 self-assessment tool to determine if they need to seek care or refer to Lakeridge Health's COVID-19 Assessment Clinic.

April 22, 2020

Oshawa Fire Chief advises of fireworks ban

The City of Oshawa advises that the Chief Fire Official has suspended the sale, distribution and use of fireworks up until and including July 1, 2020, with the potential to be extended. At this time, the fireworks ban includes the Victoria Day holiday weekend and Canada Day.

The fireworks ban protects the health and well-being of the community and allows Oshawa Fire Services to continue to provide the highest level of life safety and property protection to our community.

The fireworks ban aligns with the Provincial Government's emergency order that prohibits organized public events and social gatherings of more than five people and supports the City's cancellation of festivals and events up to and including July 1.

Oshawa Fire Services reminds community members and local businesses to do their part and respect the fireworks ban, which includes the sale, distribution and use of fireworks in 2020.

In addition, residents are reminded that burning solid fuel outdoors, including wood – which includes the use of outdoor fire pits, fireplaces and chimeneas — is never allowed without a permit. Additionally, open air burning permits are suspended until further notice.

For more information on Fire Prevention and Fire Safety visit www.oshawa.ca/fire and follow "OshawaCity" on Facebook and @OshawaFire on Twitter.

April 22, 2020

510 new coronavirus cases in Ontario, total rises to 12,245 with 659 deaths

Ontario reported 510 new cases of the novel coronavirus on Wednesday and 37 additional deaths, bringing the provincial total to 12,245 cases.

April 21, 2020

Mayor Carter's video update for April 21

In his Tuesday, April 21 message, Oshawa Mayor Dan Carter continues to urge community members to follow government orders not to gather in groups of more than five people and health authority guidelines to stay home as much as possible and maintain physical distancing to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

Mayor Carter can be reached at Mayor@oshawa.ca. To view today's video message, visit and subscribe to the City's YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/OshawaCity.

Instagram Live and #OurOshawa

"Live at Five" with Mayor Carter airs weekdays (on business days) at 5:00 p.m. on the City's Instagram account (@cityofoshawa).

Questions and stories can be shared during Instagram Live or emailed in advance to Mayor@oshawa.ca. Follow the City on Instagram and turn on notifications for Live videos to receive an alert when the Live begins.

Community members are encouraged to share their stories, photos and videos of kindness and support they have seen amid COVID-19 on social media using #OurOshawa. Those looking to spread positive messages even further are encouraged to use #OshawaStrong, #OshawaProud and #DurhamStrong.

Information and City Updates

The City continues to post updates and F.A.Q.s to its COVID-19 webpage: www.oshawa.ca/coronavirus.

Although our City facilities are temporarily closed to the public, Service Oshawa is available online, over the phone or by email.

Phone: 905-436-3311

Email: service@oshawa.ca

Online Services: service.oshawa.ca

Community members concerned about their health are asked to use the Ontario COVID-19 self-assessment tool to determine if they need to seek care or refer to Lakeridge Health's COVID-19 Assessment Clinic.

April 21, 2020

Ontario reports 551 new coronavirus cases, total rises to 11,735 with 622 deaths

Ontario reported 551 new cases of the novel coronavirus on Tuesday and 38 additional deaths, bringing the provincial total to 11,735 cases.

April 21, 2020

COVID-19 UPDATE 21: PRACTICING SAFE PHYSICAL DISTANCING IN CITY PARKS, TRAILS AND GREENSPACES

We want you to stay safe at home, but understand that physical exercise is important. Oshawa's parks, trails and greenspaces are busier than ever. It is important that we all do our part and follow provincial health guidelines and government orders to stay safe.

Remember, right now your home and backyard are the best place to play and stay fit but there are a number of ways to use good judgement and respect physical distances when using public spaces, such as sidewalks and trails.

COVID-19 Closures

To protect the safety of our community, City playgrounds, sports fields, ball diamonds, courts, skate parks, Harmony Valley off-leash dog park, park washroom facilities and Lakeview Park beach area remain closed. Please respect signs and caution tape in place.

Community members are welcome to use Oshawa's open park spaces and trails for walking through only; however, it is critical to follow government orders to not gather in groups of more than five people and health authority guidelines to stay home as much as possible and keep a physical distance of 6 feet (2 metres) from others who live outside your household.

Stay Local

Don't travel unnecessarily. Discover the sidewalks and trails in your neighbourhood. Driving to other parks and or popular open spaces contributes to overcrowding which can make safe physical distancing difficult and may put you at risk.

Pay attention and use good judgement. If you go outside and feel you are not able to maintain a safe physical distance, turn back and find another time when your neighbourhood may be less busy.

Dogs should be kept on a leash at all times. In addition to maintaining physical distancing, pet owners are reminded to stoop and scoop and take their litter home. Right now, your own backyard is the best place to play with your pet.

Community members are also reminded to help keep our parks clean by using the garbage cans where provided or taking your litter home, and to respect and protect nature by leaving flowers, plants and trees for others to enjoy and not feeding wildlife.

Reporting a Concern

Our Municipal Law Enforcement Officers are patrolling areas across the city to educate residents and to help enforce these provincial health guidelines. We continue to work with DRPS who are enforcing orders under the Ontario Government's Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act of non-compliant businesses and gatherings of five people or more

Report complaints related to parks and City facilities to Service Oshawa at 905-436-3311. Report complaints related to non-compliant businesses and gatherings of five people or more to www.drps.ca under Online Services - Community Concerns or call the DRPS non-emergency line at 1-888-579-1520, ext. 5802.

For more information on impacts to City parks, visit www.oshawa.ca/parks; for City COVID-19 updates, visit www.oshawa.ca/Coronavirus.

Serving our community

While City Hall is temporarily closed to the public, Service Oshawa staff are available online, over the phone, live chat or by email, Monday to Friday 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.

Phone: 905-436-3311

Live Chat: www.oshawa.ca/city-hall/contact-us.asp

Email: service@oshawa.ca

Online Services: service.oshawa.ca

City updates

The City continues to post updates and F.A.Q.s to its webpage at www.oshawa.ca/coronavirus. Visit the webpage for the latest updates on City closures, meeting cancellations and changes to services, as well as frequently asked questions and resources.

For updates from the City of Oshawa, subscribe to receive Public Notices via email and connect with us on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and YouTube.

Community members concerned about their health are asked to use the Ontario COVID-19 self-assessment tool to determine if they need to seek care or refer to Lakeridge Health's COVID-19 Assessment Clinic.

April 21, 2020

Durham Region Notice: Durham's business community unites during COVID-19

Durham Region's business community is rallying together and working as one cohesive task force to support local businesses, from across the region, during these challenging times.

The Durham Economic Task Force—comprised of local chambers of commerce, boards of trade and business improvement areas (BIAs), the Business Advisory Centre of Durham and other key stakeholders—has shared feedback collected from Durham businesses owners with local elected provincial (MPPs) and federal representatives (MPs); helping to ensure the urgent needs of local businesses, within the region, are addressed and actioned.

One of the key outputs this task force continues to push forward is the #SupportLocal campaign. This initiative is aimed at promoting local online shops and services, community farms, innovative solutions, as well as providing a platform for sharing good news stories.

Through the work of the task force, Invest Durham and municipal economic development teams, the website InvestDurham.ca/LocalFood was established to champion agri-businesses that have diversified their business models to include virtual sales, no-contact deliveries and pick-up options.

In addition, the Durham Economic Task Force, in collaboration with all Durham Region BIAs, will be launching a new online platform—Downtowns of Durham, to support the region’s vibrant downtown-area businesses.

This new website will make it easy for customers to identify which businesses are operational; searching by location, industry and services or products offered. It is the first collective project all local BIAs have undertaken. Their goal is to immediately drive business virtually, while also setting up a framework to support the long-term recovery of Durham’s downtown businesses.

For more information, including the latest resources for businesses in Durham Region, visit InvestDurham.ca/CovidResponse.

“I’m proud of the work the Durham Economic Task Force is doing to support and advocate for our local business community. These are challenging times for many small business owners. We are listening to your concerns and are working to make sure you have the resources needed to face these new challenges. Durham Region is an innovative community; known for its ability to adapt and solve big problems. We will continue to showcase these strengths, long after this situation is over.”

- John Henry, Regional Chair and Chief Executive Officer

April 20, 2020

Mayor Carter’s video update for April 20

In his Monday, April 20 message, Oshawa Mayor Dan Carter marks National Volunteer Week (April 19 to 25) by thanking both individuals and service organizations who have come together amid COVID-19 to help those most vulnerable in our community.

Mayor Carter can be reached at Mayor@oshawa.ca. To view today’s video message, visit and subscribe to the City’s YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/OshawaCity.

Instagram Live and #OurOshawa

“Live at Five” with Mayor Carter airs weekdays (on business days) at 5:00 p.m. on the City’s Instagram account (@cityofoshawa). Questions and stories can be shared during Instagram Live or emailed in advance to Mayor@oshawa.ca. Follow the City on Instagram and turn on notifications for Live videos to receive an alert when the Live begins.

Community members are encouraged to share their stories, photos and videos of kindness and support they have seen amid COVID-19 on social media using #OurOshawa. Those looking to spread positive messages even further are encouraged to use #OshawaStrong, #OshawaProud and #DurhamStrong.

Information and City Updates

The City continues to post updates and F.A.Q.s to its COVID-19 webpage: www.oshawa.ca/coronavirus.

Although our City facilities are temporarily closed to the public, Service Oshawa is available online, over the phone or by email.

Phone: 905-436-3311

Email: service@oshawa.ca

Online Services: service.oshawa.ca

Community members concerned about their health are asked to use the Ontario COVID-19 self-assessment tool to determine if they need to seek care or refer to Lakeridge Health’s COVID-19 Assessment Clinic.

April 20, 2020

606 new coronavirus cases in Ontario, total reaches 11,184 cases and 584 deaths

Ontario reported 606 new cases of the novel coronavirus on Monday and 31 additional deaths, bringing the provincial total to 11,184 cases.

April 20, 2020

Durham’s business community unites during COVID-19

Whitby, Ontario – Durham Region’s business community is rallying together and working as one cohesive task force to support local businesses, from across the region, during these challenging times.

The Durham Economic Task Force—comprised of local chambers of commerce, boards of trade and business improvement areas (BIAs), the Business Advisory Centre of Durham and other key stakeholders—has shared feedback collected from Durham businesses owners with local elected provincial (MPPs) and federal representatives (MPs); helping to ensure the urgent needs of local businesses, within the region, are addressed and actioned.

One of the key outputs this task force continues to push forward is the #SupportLocal campaign. This initiative is aimed at promoting local online shops and services, community farms, innovative solutions, as well as providing a platform for sharing good news stories.

Through the work of the task force, Invest Durham and municipal economic development teams, the website InvestDurham.ca/LocalFood was established to champion agri-businesses that have diversified their business models to include virtual sales, no-contact deliveries and pick-up options.

In addition, the Durham Economic Task Force, in collaboration with all Durham Region BIAs, will be launching a new online platform—Downtowns of Durham, to support the region’s vibrant downtown-area businesses.

This new website will make it easy for customers to identify which businesses are operational; searching by location, industry and services or products offered. It is the first collective project all local BIAs have undertaken. Their goal is to immediately drive business virtually, while also setting up a framework to support the long-term recovery of Durham’s downtown businesses.

For more information, including the latest resources for businesses in Durham Region, visit InvestDurham.ca/CovidResponse.

“I’m proud of the work the Durham Economic Task Force is doing to support and advocate for our local business community. These are challenging times for many small business owners. We are listening to your concerns and are working to make sure you have the resources needed to face these new challenges. Durham Region is an innovative community; known for its ability to adapt and solve big problems. We will continue to showcase these strengths, long after this situation is over.”

- John Henry, Regional Chair and Chief Executive Officer

April 20, 2020

Ontario’s coronavirus numbers may have peaked, new modelling suggests

“The sacrifices people are making to stay home and wash their hands are making a difference,” the report highlighted.

April 20, 2020

Durham Region Notice: Durham's business community unites during COVID-19

Durham Region's business community is rallying together and working as one cohesive task force to support local businesses, from across the region, during these challenging times.

The Durham Economic Task Force—comprised of local chambers of commerce, boards of trade and business improvement areas (BIAs), the Business Advisory Centre of Durham and other key stakeholders—has shared feedback collected from Durham businesses owners with local elected provincial (MPPs) and federal representatives (MPs); helping to ensure the urgent needs of local businesses, within the region, are addressed and actioned.

One of the key outputs this task force continues to push forward is the #SupportLocal campaign. This initiative is aimed at promoting local online shops and services, community farms, innovative solutions, as well as providing a platform for sharing good news stories.

Through the work of the task force, Invest Durham and municipal economic development teams, the website InvestDurham.ca/LocalFood was established to champion agri-businesses that have diversified their business models to include virtual sales, no-contact deliveries and pick-up options.

In addition, the Durham Economic Task Force, in collaboration with all Durham Region BIAs, will be launching a new online platform—Downtowns of Durham, to support the region's vibrant downtown-area businesses.

This new website will make it easy for customers to identify which businesses are operational; searching by location, industry and services or products offered. It is the first collective project all local BIAs have undertaken. Their goal is to immediately drive business virtually, while also setting up a framework to support the long-term recovery of Durham's downtown businesses.

For more information, including the latest resources for businesses in Durham Region, visit InvestDurham.ca/CovidResponse.

"I'm proud of the work the Durham Economic Task Force is doing to support and advocate for our local business community. These are challenging times for many small business owners. We are listening to your concerns and are working to make sure you have the resources needed to face these new challenges. Durham Region is an innovative community; known for its ability to adapt and solve big problems. We will continue to showcase these strengths, long after this situation is over."

- John Henry, Regional Chair and Chief Executive Officer

April 17, 2020

Mayor Carter's video update for April 17

In his Friday, April 17 video message, Oshawa Mayor Dan Carter talks about the importance of practicing safe physical distancing when being active outdoors and urges community members to follow government orders to not gather in groups of more than five people and health authority guidelines to keep a physical distance of 6 feet (2 metres) from others.

Oshawa's Municipal Law Enforcement Officers are actively patrolling areas across the city to educate residents and to help enforce these provincial health guidelines. They continue to work with DRPS who are enforcing orders under the Ontario Government's Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act of non-compliant businesses and gatherings of five people

Complaints related to parks and City facilities can be reported to Service Oshawa at 905-436-3311. Complaints related to non-compliant businesses and gatherings of five people or more should be reported to www.drps.ca under Online Services - Community Concerns or call the DRPS non-emergency line at 1-888-579-1520, ext. 5802.

Mayor Carter can be reached at Mayor@oshawa.ca. To view today's video message, visit and subscribe to the City's YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/OshawaCity.

Instagram Live and #OurOshawa

"Live at Five" with Mayor Carter currently airs weekdays (on business days) at 5:00 p.m. on the City's Instagram account (@cityofoshawa). Questions and stories can be shared during Instagram Live or emailed in advance to Mayor@oshawa.ca. Follow the City on Instagram and turn on notifications for Live videos to receive an alert when the Live begins.

Community members are encouraged to share their stories, photos and videos of kindness and support they have seen amid COVID-19 on social media using #OurOshawa. Those looking to spread positive messages even further are encouraged to use #OshawaStrong, #OshawaProud and #DurhamStrong.

Information and City Updates

The City continues to post updates, including an F.A.Q. section, to its COVID-19 webpage: www.oshawa.ca/coronavirus.

Although our City facilities are temporarily closed to the public, Service Oshawa is available online, over the phone or by email.

Phone: 905-436-3311

Email: service@oshawa.ca

Online Services: service.oshawa.ca

Community members concerned about their health are asked to use the Ontario COVID-19 self-assessment tool to determine if they need to seek care or refer to Lakeridge Health's COVID-19 Assessment Clinic.

April 17, 2020

DRPS COVID Response

The DRPS continues to adapt and respond to the changing nature of harm in the community and assist citizens and businesses under the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act (EMCPA).

Across the region nearly all crimes are showing a decline. We are also seeing a decline in emergency calls for service, although less-urgent calls have increased.

We have received over 1,000 contacts/complaints from the public regarding the EMCPA. The majority involve groups of five or more people (in houses, in parks, etc.), followed by non-compliant businesses (majority are actually in compliance). Officers are following up on these calls and are also taking pro-active steps to educate and inform citizens about the rules. So far, eight charges have been laid.

Other updates:

* We have our first confirmed case of COVID-19, a police officer, who is now self-isolating at home and in good spirits. All health and safety precautions have been taken.

* Between Feb. 24 - March 22, DRPS responded to 327 domestic calls. Between March 23 - April 12, DRPS responded to 242 domestic calls for service.

The DRPS wants to remind citizens that there are support services available and ready to help them during this difficult time. Please visit the Region of Durham's website for 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://kidshelpphone.ca/> or calling 1-800-668-6868.

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.

Citizens can report a gathering of more than 5 people 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.

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.<https://www.ontario.ca/page/stopping-spread-covid-19>](https://www.ontario.ca/page/stopping-spread-covid-19)

For the most up-to-date public information about COVID-19 in Durham Region, refer to www.durham.ca/NovelCoronavirus.<<https://www.durham.ca/en/health-and-wellness/novel-coronavirus-update.aspx>> Citizens can contact Durham Public Health via email at health@durham.ca, or by phone at 1-800-841-2729 or 905-668-2020.

Reports regarding price gouging must go directly to the Province of Ontario. File a complaint at 1-800-889-9768 between 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday, or file a report online<<https://www.ontario.ca/form/report-price-gouging-related-covid-19>> at www.ontario.ca<<http://www.ontario.ca/>>

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 social distancing and following personal protective protocols as required.

April 17, 2020

564 new coronavirus cases in Ontario and 55 deaths, total rises to 9,525 cases with 478 deaths

Friday's report marks the highest single-day increase in both cases and deaths in Ontario since the coronavirus outbreak began.

April 17, 2020

Oshawa sets two building records in March amid pandemic

Construction value issued in Oshawa saw an increase last month, with the City of Oshawa setting two building records for the month of March 2020:

Highest number of apartment units issued in any one month on record (504 units, surpassing 455 units record set in 1976)

Highest March for residential permit value (\$87.6 million, surpassing \$63.2 million set in 2015)

The major project issued in March 2020 was a 504-unit apartment building for Tribute (Simcoe Street) Limited located at 2550 Simcoe St. N. Its total value was \$80,693,800. This one permit established two new building records for Oshawa.

During the month of March, the City issued 83 building permits for a total of \$88.5 million in construction value. Of that total, \$87.6 million in Residential construction, \$622,900 in Commercial, \$233,200 in Governmental/Institutional and \$40,000 in Industrial construction was issued.

There were 528 new residential units consisting of 505 apartment units, 12 single-detached and 11 accessory dwelling units.

Oshawa's year-to-date total construction value (\$105.7 million), residential value (\$95.6 million) and total number of permits issued are all well ahead of last year.

Oshawa has kept monthly building records since 1965, while yearly records date back to 1963. For more information on Building Permits & Inspection Services, visit www.oshawa.ca/residents/building-and-renovating.asp.

For updates on the City of Oshawa, visit www.oshawa.ca and sign up for news, alerts and e-newsletters. Stay connected with us on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, YouTube and Connect Oshawa.

"As cities around the world are facing the impacts of COVID-19, it has changed the way we do business. The City of Oshawa continues to work to meet the needs of developers and builders and is accepting and processing building permit applications and providing building inspections," said Oshawa Mayor Dan Carter. "By changing the way we do business, we have continued to move forward major developments in our city leading to two new building records in March."

"Oshawa has a long-standing history of innovation and resilience in the face of economic challenges," said Councillor Tito-Dante Marimpietri, Chair, Development Services Committee. "Amid the pandemic, as your Chair, I am pleased to report some vital and impressive development news – our department has continued to diligently serve you and the outcome is two building records in March, including highest apartment units issued with a permit for an apartment building with more than 500 units."

"Irrespective of the negative COVID-19 news these past weeks, Oshawa has some positives to celebrate. The record breaking increases in construction value and building permits in March 2020 are bellwether indicators. Not only do they point to the immediate positive, which is that the City's Building Services has now collected \$800,000 in building revenue in the 1st Q 2020, but like day follows night, the really good news is that the quantity and quality of these new building permits are an exciting measure of the new construction jobs, the new businesses and the more new built residential premises soon to ramp up in Oshawa," said Councillor Rosemary McConkey, Vice-Chair, Development Services Committee.

April 17, 2020

Road Closure: Bermuda St closed between Waverly St N and Antigua Cres effective May 4, 2020 to June 5, 2020.

Description: Road Closure: Bermuda St closed between Waverly St N and Antigua Cres effective May 4, 2020

Date: Monday May 4, 2020 to June 5, 2020

Details: The City will be completing work on the new twin culvert, road works and sidewalk.

For more information, please contact: Service Oshawa

April 17, 2020

COVID-19 Update 20: City reminds of tax relief measures for residents and local businesses

With the April 27 tax installment due date around the corner, the City of Oshawa reminds the community that we are supporting residents and local businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic by providing a two-month grace period, until June 30, for the April 27, 2020 installment with no penalties or interest charged. Insufficient funds and pre-authorized payment related fees will be waived.

“The City of Oshawa is here for you and we are focused on helping our residents and businesses during these challenging times. We’ve taken action to support our businesses and residents by providing some financial relief as we continue to work together to overcome the impacts we are facing as a result of this pandemic,” said Oshawa Mayor Dan Carter.

Additionally, the first installment of the final residential billing scheduled for June 26, 2020 will be delayed by one month to July 24, 2020. The first installment of the final billing for non-residential properties is July 27, 2020.

Community members are reminded that all pre-authorized payment plan changes must be received by Taxation Services, five days prior to the withdrawal date in writing. Requests can be made by:

email to tax@oshawa.ca; or,

mail to City of Oshawa, City Hall, Tax Services, 50 Centre St. S., Oshawa ON L1H 3Z7.

To learn more about property taxes and changes to billing installment due dates, visit the City’s Coronavirus F.A.Q. webpage at www.oshawa.ca/coronavirusFAQ.

Serving our community

While City Hall is temporarily closed to the public, Service Oshawa staff are available online, over the phone, live chat or by email, Monday to Friday 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.

Phone: 905-436-3311

Live Chat: www.oshawa.ca/city-hall/contact-us.asp

Email: service@oshawa.ca

Online Services: service.oshawa.ca

City updates

The City continues to post updates and F.A.Q.s to its webpage at www.oshawa.ca/coronavirus. Visit the webpage for the latest updates on City closures, meeting cancellations and changes to services, as well as frequently asked questions and resources.

For updates from the City of Oshawa, subscribe to receive Public Notices via email and connect with us on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and YouTube.

Community members concerned about their health are asked to use the Ontario COVID-19 self-assessment tool to determine if they need to seek care or refer to Lakeridge Health’s COVID-19 Assessment Clinic.

April 17, 2020

Road Closure: Somerville Street between Tecumseh Avenue and Byng Avenue

Where: Somerville St between Tecumseh Ave and Byng Ave will be closed to through traffic.

Road closure and detour signs will be set per Ontario Traffic Manual Book 7 - Temporary Conditions. Refer attached traffic detour map.

Access to local traffic will be provided at all times.

When: April 20, 2020 to April 25, 2020

Why: Site service connection to 125 Tecumseh Ave

We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

For more information, please contact: Sam Woodley of Dave Boyle Excavating Ltd. at 905-244-7645

April 17, 2020

Canada’s total coronavirus cases top 30,000

About 9,700 people have recovered from the virus across the country, and nearly half a million Canadians have been tested.

April 16, 2020

Mayor Carter’s video update for April 16

In his Thursday, April 16 video message, Oshawa Mayor Dan Carter talks about a Special Council Meeting that was held virtually on Wednesday, April 15, followed by a vehicle parade at Lakeridge Health Oshawa in which City of Oshawa workers showed their appreciation for front line hospital workers.

The next virtual Council meeting takes place on Monday, April 27 at 9:30 a.m. and is available to webstream at www.oshawa.ca. To see photos or video footage of the vehicle parade, visit the City of Oshawa’s Facebook page or Instagram account.

Mayor Carter can be reached at Mayor@oshawa.ca. To view today’s video message, visit and subscribe to the City’s YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/OshawaCity.

Instagram Live and #OurOshawa

“Live at Five” with Mayor Carter currently airs weekdays (on business days) at 5:00 p.m. on the City’s Instagram account (@cityofoshawa). Questions and stories can be shared during Instagram Live or emailed in advance to Mayor@oshawa.ca. Follow the City on Instagram and turn on notifications for Live videos to receive an alert when the Live begins.

Community members are encouraged to share their stories, photos and videos of kindness and support they have seen amid COVID-19 on social media using #OurOshawa. Those looking to spread positive messages even further are encouraged to use #OshawaStrong, #OshawaProud and #DurhamStrong.

Information and City Updates

The City continues to post updates, including an F.A.Q. section, to its COVID-19 webpage: www.oshawa.ca/coronavirus. Although our City facilities are temporarily closed to the public, Service Oshawa is available online, over the phone or by email.

Phone: 905-436-3311

Email: service@oshawa.ca

Online Services: service.oshawa.ca

Community members concerned about their health are asked to use the Ontario COVID-19 self-assessment tool to determine if they need to seek care or refer to Lakeridge Health's COVID-19 Assessment Clinic.

April 16, 2020

Extended hours at Waste Management Facilities on Tuesdays from May to October

Whitby, Ontario – As an essential service, the Region of Durham advises residents that summer hours at its Waste Management Facilities in Oshawa and Scugog are back starting on Tuesday, May 5. The facilities will be open for extended hours from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Tuesdays only from the first Tuesday in May until the first Tuesday in October.

When: Tuesdays only; Tuesday, May 5 to Tuesday, October 6. Extended hours are 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Where: Oshawa Waste Management Facility, 1640 Ritson Road North in Oshawa; and Port Perry Waste Management Facility, 1623 Reach Street in Port Perry.

Why: Extended hours are being offered on Tuesdays only during the busy spring and summer months. Wednesdays to Saturdays, the facilities will be open for regular hours of 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The facilities are closed on Sundays and Mondays.

Note: COVID-19 physical distancing protocols at Durham's Waste Management Facilities now require proof of residency to be shown to help ensure that the Regional Waste Management Facilities are used by Region of Durham residents only. Leaf and yard waste is not currently being collected at these facilities, however it is still accepted at the curb.

Please also be advised, in response to COVID-19, the Region of Durham is ensuring that our services identified as essential by the Province of Ontario, including waste management, continue to be provided safely to protect the environment and the public.

April 16, 2020

514 new coronavirus cases in Ontario, total rises to 8,961 with 423 deaths

Ontario reported 514 new cases of the novel coronavirus on Thursday and 38 additional deaths, bringing the provincial total to 8,961 cases.

April 15, 2020

Mayor Carter's video update for April 15

In his Wednesday, April 15 video message, Oshawa Mayor Dan Carter talks about being joined by members of Council earlier today for a City of Oshawa vehicle parade to show appreciation for Lakeridge Health Oshawa's front line hospital workers and healthcare professionals. He thanked our partners for continuing to show their support for the Oshawa community and lifting the spirits of community members.

Mayor Carter can be reached at Mayor@oshawa.ca. To view today's video message, visit and subscribe to the City's YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/OshawaCity.

Instagram Live and #OurOshawa

"Live at Five" with Mayor Carter currently airs weekdays (on business days) at 5:00 p.m. on the City's Instagram account (@cityofoshawa). Questions and stories can be shared during Instagram Live or emailed in advance to Mayor@oshawa.ca. Follow the City on Instagram and turn on notifications for Live videos to receive an alert when the Live begins.

Community members are encouraged to share their stories, photos and videos of kindness and support they have seen amid COVID-19 on social media using #OurOshawa. Those looking to spread positive messages even further are encouraged to use #OshawaStrong, #OshawaProud and #DurhamStrong.

Information and City Updates

The City continues to post updates, including an F.A.Q. section, to its COVID-19 webpage: www.oshawa.ca/coronavirus.

Although our City facilities are temporarily closed to the public, Service Oshawa is available online, over the phone or by email.

Phone: 905-436-3311

Email: service@oshawa.ca

Online Services: service.oshawa.ca

Community members concerned about their health are asked to use the Ontario COVID-19 self-assessment tool to determine if they need to seek care or refer to Lakeridge Health's COVID-19 Assessment Clinic.

April 15, 2020

OSCC55+ Notice: Stay Connected, Stay Active

OSCC55+ announces assistance for seniors during COVID-19

The Oshawa Senior Community Centres 55+ (OSCC55+) has introduced a new business model designed to help older adults combat isolation and stay connected during the COVID-19 pandemic. Seniors can access the following services via oscc.ca/stayconnected or by calling 905-576-6712:

Telephone Outreach Program – Seniors can register to receive regular check-in calls to reduce feelings of isolation and provide care and concern. This free service is available to anyone 55 or older in the Durham community. To register, please call 905-576-6712 ext. 2830 or email info@oscc.ca.

Grocery Order & Delivery Service – in partnership with a local grocer, the OSCC55+ will be facilitating grocery orders and providing delivery within Oshawa by our vans and transportation staff. Seniors can call 905-576-6712 ext. 2830 or email groceries@oscc.ca with their list and staff will be in touch to confirm delivery and payment. Payments must be by cheque to the grocery store.

OSCC55+ COVID-19 Resource Guide – OSCC55+ has prepared a resource guide to assist older adults with access to services in the community. The complete resource guide can be found at oscc.ca/stayconnected and at various businesses in Oshawa. Grocery stores or pharmacies interested in receiving copies may contact our staff at 905-576-6712 ext. 2830 to request a drop off.

Online Programs – OSCC55+ has introduced online programming for seniors wishing to stay active and continue to be engaged. These free interactive programs are accessible at oscc.ca/onlineprograms through a computer, smart phone or a tablet. Topics include: Zumba, yoga, wellness seminars, general interest workshops, current events, cooking demonstrations and more.

Social Connecting through Facebook – OSCC55+ is engaging with the community through the OSCC55+ Facebook page (www.facebook.com/OSCC55plus/) with entertaining videos, useful links, programs and fitness demonstrations to help keep seniors engaged and active. We invite people to comment, share and like to keep our seniors' community connected and strong.

Though our branches remain closed, we continue to serve the seniors' community. For more information, please visit www.oscc.ca, email info@oscc.ca or call 905-576-6712 ext. 2830.

April 15, 2020

OPG providing emergency food support to Durham Region

TORONTO, April 15, 2020 /CNW/ - Ontario Power Generation (OPG) is joining forces with Feed the Need in Durham (FTND) to provide COVID-19 emergency food support to residents in the Durham region. OPG's donation of \$150,000 will be used to purchase and distribute food during this time of increased need.

[OPG providing emergency food support to Durham Region (CNW Group/Ontario Power Generation Inc.)]

"Helping those in need during a time of crisis is what corporate citizenship is all about. We are extremely thankful to the good people of Feed the Need in Durham who have been working non-stop to provide emergency food support to residents of our largest site community," said Ken Hartwick, OPG's President and CEO. "We encourage other companies in the Durham region to reach out to FTND and do the same."

FTND believes that hunger should not prevent anyone from fulfilling their potential or participating fully in the life of their community. Their mandate is to work with member agencies to alleviate hunger by providing fresh, frozen and non-perishable food to those who need it most. For every \$1 donated, FTND is able to collect, store and distribute \$7 worth of food.

"We are humbled by this generous contribution from OPG and for their ongoing support of our work in the community. As our network steps up in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure that none of our residents go hungry, we rely on the generosity and kindness of our partners. With this donation, OPG has demonstrated their commitment to support FTND and our community in its time of most need, and for that we sincerely thank them," said Ben Earle, FTND Executive Director.

"Our OPG community has been very kind and generous over the years and we are so thankful and truly grateful for this additional support that will help us to continue to meet the need and support those who need a hand in the crucial days and months ahead," added Robyn McKibbin, FTND Community Engagement Coordinator.

OPG has already provided \$750,000 to support organizations helping the food vulnerable across Ontario. The company has also focused on helping frontline health care workers by donating 700,000 surgical masks, 75,000 N95 masks and 17,500 Tyvek protective suits to the Province of Ontario for distribution to hospitals and care facilities in need; providing 10 Power Assisted Air Purification Respirators (PAAPRs) to Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre; and partnering with Ontario Tech to develop protective shields using 3D printers. Learn more about OPG's efforts against the spread of COVID-19.

About Feed the Need in Durham: FTND is a unique and innovative organization, founded through collaboration, with a focus on collective impact. Working with 57 emergency food providers and 5 school nutrition programs across Durham, they were able to distribute 1.22 million meals in 2019 to those in need in the community, supporting 37,750 visits each month, 40 per cent of whom are children. To support their efforts, visit the FTND website.

April 15, 2020

Recycle your batteries during the week of April 20

Whitby, Ontario – The Regional Municipality of Durham is reminding residents to place their used or unwanted household batteries out for recycling on their collection day during the week of April 20.

When: Spring battery collection occurs the week of April 20 on blue box collection days.

Where: Households across Durham Region who currently receive curbside collection services.

Why: Batteries are not garbage – up to 92 per cent of battery components are recyclable and recoverable. By taking part in the battery collection program, you can help eliminate mercury, cadmium and other heavy metals from entering the environment. Since 2012, Durham residents have diverted more than 238,000kg of batteries from the waste stream.

Note: Residents received two orange labels in their 2019-2020 Waste Collection Calendar Guide. A printable version of the label can be found at durham.ca/Battery. Residents should affix the label to a clear, sealable plastic bag containing their used or unwanted household batteries. Sealed bags should be placed on top of paper blue boxes for collection during the week of April 20 only. Keeping batteries separate from other blue box materials helps workers to clearly identify them; please do not put loose batteries inside your blue box.

Batteries should be stored in a cool, dry location, away from any flammable material, prior to recycling. During storage, battery terminals should not be in contact with conductive materials. The terminals on lithium and nine-volt batteries should be covered with masking tape prior to storage. For more information about preparing batteries for recycling, visit durham.ca/Battery.

The Region of Durham is ensuring that our services identified as essential by the Province of Ontario, including waste management, continue to be provided safely to protect the environment and the public.

For more information, visit durham.ca/waste, email waste@durham.ca, call 1-800-667-5671 or download the Durham Region Waste App.

April 15, 2020

51 new coronavirus deaths in Ontario, total reaches 385 and 8,447 cases

Ontario reported 494 new cases of the novel coronavirus on Wednesday and 51 additional deaths, bringing the provincial total to 8,447 cases.

April 15, 2020

Road closure on Regional Road 13 in Brock

Whitby, Ontario – The Region of Durham advises residents of road closures on Regional Road 13 at the intersection of Lake Ridge Road (Regional Road 23) in the Township of Brock.

When: Regional Road 13 will be closed west of Lake Ridge Road for approximately four weeks commencing April 20, 2020. Once that section of Regional Road 13 reopens, Regional Road 13 will then be closed east of Lake Ridge Road for approximately eight weeks. Unfavourable weather conditions may influence the work schedule.

Where: Regional Road 13, west and east of Lake Ridge Road in Brock.

Why: Reconstructing the road.

Note: Drivers are asked to exercise caution for the safety of pedestrians, cyclists and work crews. Please also be advised, in response to COVID-19 the Province of Ontario has identified the maintenance and repair of critical infrastructure including roads as an essential service, according to the latest update of essential workplaces.

April 15, 2020

More than 1,000 people have died in Canada from COVID-19

More than 1,000 people have died of COVID-19 across the country, according to provincial health authorities.

April 14, 2020

Mayor Carter announces Mayor's Economic Recovery Task Force

Oshawa Mayor Dan Carter announced today the formation of the Mayor's Economic Recovery Task Force to identify actions to support the needs of Oshawa businesses impacted by COVID-19. The task force will focus on economic support and recovery for local businesses, including relief measures, resources and supports that are available and guiding discussions with all levels of government to advocate on behalf of the local business community.

Chaired by Regional Councillor Tito-Dante Marimpietri, Chair of the Development Services Committee, members of the task force include, but are not limited to Mayor Dan Carter, the Greater Oshawa Chamber of Commerce, the Downtown Oshawa Business Improvement Association, the Durham Region Association of Realtors, the post-secondary institutions in Oshawa, the development industry, the financial sector and the employment support sector.

For Information and Resources:

Members of the regional business community are encouraged to visit www.investdurham.ca/covidresponse for centralized information, resources and developments.

Businesses are encouraged to contact Oshawa Economic Development Services at business@oshawa.ca. For more information on Economic Development Services, visit www.oshawa.ca/business and follow [@InvestOshawa](https://twitter.com/InvestOshawa) on Twitter.

The City continues to post updates and F.A.Q.s to its COVID-19 webpage at www.oshawa.ca/coronavirus. Although City facilities are temporarily closed to the public, Service Oshawa is available online, over the phone or by email.

"The Mayor's Economic Recovery Task Force is committed to helping our local businesses who are facing unprecedented, challenging times," said Oshawa Mayor Dan Carter. "Through the Task Force, we are ensuring that the City is fully focused on responding to the evolving economic challenges of COVID-19 and supporting our businesses now during this difficult time and making sure that when the day comes, we are well prepared to shift into recovery and move forward together."

"COVID-19 has presented us with extremely trying circumstances and an unprecedented time of disruptive uncertainty. Everyone in our community continues to do their part to follow our Medical Officer's recommendations. I am immensely grateful toward those providing front line services during every single day often without much rest. In the midst of all this, everyone's lives have been impacted, including those of so many local small business owners and their employees," said Regional Councillor Tito-Dante Marimpietri, Chair of the Mayor's Economic Recovery Task Force and Chair of Development Services Committee.

"Mayor Dan Carter has shown true commitment to the business community and knows exactly what it takes to continue positioning our city for the future. I share this vision and that is why I am honoured to have been called upon by our Mayor to lead the Mayor's Economic Recovery Task Force. As Chair of the Mayor's Task Force, I am committed to ensuring that the City of Oshawa takes the necessary action to restore our local economy with the future in mind. By working tirelessly as a team with a broad firsthand understanding of what we must do to return our community on a positive socioeconomic track, together our reemergence will come about sooner. Oshawa has a long-standing history of showing strength and resilience in the face of economic challenges, many of which are as a result of global pressures," added Regional Councillor Tito-Dante Marimpietri.

"This pandemic has proven that we are truly all in this together, that it remains of vital importance that our city, with the support of the community and the help of local business leaders, continues to engage and share ideas while advocating with leaders at all levels of government to form easier, more accessible assistance measures to provide the many in our community who need the help to defend from the devastating effects of this novel threat to emerge on as strong a footing as possible. Oshawa's future must remain a bright one, and as such I openly invite our community and the small businesses within to provide their input and offer up ideas, which will help us begin reigniting our local economy when the time does come for us to restart its engine. As one of your strongest voices and dedicated advocates, I thank you in advance for all of your efforts and support of our community throughout this time and especially beyond, as we continue to work together in the days, weeks, months and years ahead as #OshawaStrong," said Regional Councillor Tito-Dante Marimpietri.

April 14, 2020

Mayor Carter's video update for April 14

In his Tuesday, April 14 video message, Oshawa Mayor Dan Carter continues to urge community members to follow government orders

not to gather in groups of more than five people and health authority guidelines to stay home as much as possible and maintain physical distancing to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

Mayor Carter can be reached at Mayor@oshawa.ca. To view today's video message, visit and subscribe to the City's YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/OshawaCity.

Instagram Live and #OurOshawa

"Live at Five" with Mayor Carter currently airs weekdays (on business days) at 5:00 p.m. on the City's Instagram account (@cityofoshawa). Questions and stories can be shared during Instagram Live or emailed in advance to Mayor@oshawa.ca. Follow the City on Instagram and turn on notifications for Live videos to receive an alert when the Live begins.

Community members are encouraged to share their stories, photos and videos of kindness and support they have seen amid COVID-19 on social media using #OurOshawa. Those looking to spread positive messages even further are encouraged to use #OshawaStrong, #OshawaProud and #DurhamStrong.

Information and City Updates

The City continues to post updates, including an F.A.Q. section, to its COVID-19 webpage: www.oshawa.ca/coronavirus.

Although our City facilities are temporarily closed to the public, Service Oshawa is available online, over the phone or by email.

Phone: 905-436-3311

Email: service@oshawa.ca

Online Services: service.oshawa.ca

Community members concerned about their health are asked to use the Ontario COVID-19 self-assessment tool to determine if they need to seek care or refer to Lakeridge Health's COVID-19 Assessment Clinic.

April 14, 2020

Ontario reports 43 new coronavirus deaths, total rises to 334 deaths and 7,953 cases

Tuesday's report of 43 new COVID-19 deaths is the highest single-day increase in deaths that Ontario has seen since the outbreak began.

April 11, 2020

COVID-19 Update 19: Staying connected through isolation

The Region of Durham has compiled The Resources in the Community webpage, to support vulnerable and marginalized individuals in our community. The information is updated regularly and reflects the Region's understanding of resources that are available at that time.

"While physical distancing is required, social interaction is still very important for our mental health," said Oshawa Mayor Dan Carter. "We do not need to walk through these uncertain times alone. There are many community resources that can help us navigate these waters. I encourage anyone who may be experiencing feelings of isolation, anxiety or stress to reach out and ask for help. We are stronger together."

Do you need help? Are you feeling alone or isolated and worried? There is support:

Call Community Care Durham at 1-888-255-6680 to register to be contacted for health and wellness assurance checks.

Support for caregivers is available from The Alzheimer Society. Contact them via email at information@alzheimerdurham.com or call 1-888-301-1106 / 905-576-2567.

Other Resources:

If you are currently receiving mental health and addictions services and supports, please contact your current service provider to learn about potential virtual care options. Additional resources that are available include:

Telehealth Ontario: 1-866-797-0000.

Distress Centre Durham Hotline: 905-430-2522.

Durham Mental Health Crisis Line: 1-800-742-1890.

Family Services Durham: 1-866-840-6697 extension 1.

Ontario Shores Mental Health Articles: Are you struggling with anxiety over COVID-19? Find helpful information to help deal with stress and worry through Ontario Shores (see the right side of the webpage under Mental Health Articles).

ConnexOntario: Online resource for mental health, addictions and problem gambling. Available online or call 1-866-531-2600 (for those over 18).

Kids Help Phone: Available online or call 1-800-668-6868 for 24/7 support for children and youth under 18.

Good2Talk: Free, confidential mental health support service for post-secondary students in Ontario.

First Nations and Inuit Hope for Wellness Line: Online chat or call 1-855-242-3310 (24/7). Culturally competent phone counselling and crisis intervention available in English, French, Cree, Ojibway, Inuktitut.

Trans Lifeline: Online or call 1-877-330-6366 (24/7). Peer support service run by trans people, for trans and questioning callers.

LGBT Youth Line: Call 1-800-268-9688 or text 647-694-4275. Also offers online chat. Get in touch with a peer support volunteer from Sunday to Friday, 4:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Big White Wall is an online peer-to-peer support community for your mental health. Free membership is provided by the Ontario Government

BounceBack: A guided self-help program using workbooks with phone coaching support. Access online or ask your doctor for a referral.

Community libraries are closed at this time, but many online resources such as audiobooks and digital versions of books can be accessed through their websites. Check back often for new virtual programming.

Serving our community

While City Hall is temporarily closed to the public, Service Oshawa staff are available online, over the phone, live chat or by email, Monday to Friday 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.

Phone: 905-436-3311

Live Chat: www.oshawa.ca/city-hall/contact-us.asp

Email: service@oshawa.ca

Online Services: service.oshawa.ca

Due to the Easter holiday, Service Oshawa will be closed on Friday, April 10 and Monday, April 13 and will reopen on Tuesday, April 14 at 8:30 a.m.

April 11, 2020

Coronavirus: Liberals, opposition parties strike deal to pass COVID-19 wage subsidy bill

Passage of legislation needed to implement the \$73-billion program was assured after Conservatives dropped their attempt to tie the bill to the longer-term question of how Parliament should function in the midst of a national health crisis.

April 11, 2020

#PublicHealthProtects

Wearing a non-medical mask can further protect others in our community.

A message from your Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Robert Kyle

With increasing numbers of positive COVID-19 cases in communities across the country, governments and public health experts are continually identifying additional actions that we can all take to protect ourselves and others from becoming ill. As the situation evolves, we are also learning more about the virus everyday. We must all continue to follow instructions and wash our hands often, practice physical distancing if we must go out, avoid touching our faces, clean and disinfect commonly touched surfaces frequently and self-isolate if we feel unwell. The Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) has now advised that wearing a non-medical mask, such as a homemade cloth mask, is an additional measure that we can take to protect others in our community from becoming ill. Non-medical masks can help to reduce the risk of others coming into contact with respiratory droplets. Please refer to additional information on wearing a mask posted at durham.ca/novelcoronavirus and follow recommendations by PHAC on how to do so safely.

April 10, 2020

Ontario reports 478 new coronavirus cases, including 22 deaths as total cases top 6,200

April 10, 2020

CORONAVIRUS DEATHS TOP 100,000 WORLDWIDE

Italy, the United States, Spain and France have suffered the most fatalities from the viral respiratory illness.

April 9, 2020

Ontario reports 483 new coronavirus cases, total rises to 5,759 and 200 deaths

Ontario reported 483 new cases of the novel coronavirus on Thursday and 26 more deaths, bringing the provincial total to 5,759 cases.

April 9, 2020

Mayor Carter's video update for April 9

In his Thursday, April 9 video message, Oshawa Mayor Dan Carter thanks local businesses who continue to lift the spirits of our City through their generous donations of food and equipment to our first responders.

Mayor Carter continues to urge community members to follow government orders not to gather in groups of more than five people and health authority guidelines to stay home as much as possible and maintain physical distancing as the next few weeks are crucial to reducing the spread of COVID-19.

Mayor Carter can be reached at Mayor@oshawa.ca. To view today's video message, visit and subscribe to the City's YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/OshawaCity.

Instagram Live and #OurOshawa

"Live at Five" with Mayor Carter airs weekdays (on business days) at 5:00 p.m. on the City's Instagram account (@cityofoshawa). Questions and stories can be shared during Instagram Live or emailed in advance to Mayor@oshawa.ca. Follow the City on Instagram and turn on notifications for Live videos to receive an alert when the Live begins.

Community members are encouraged to share their stories, photos and videos of kindness and support they have seen amid COVID-19 on social media using #OurOshawa. Those looking to spread positive messages even further are encouraged to use #OshawaStrong, #OshawaProud and #DurhamStrong.

Information and City Updates

The City continues to post updates and F.A.Q.s to its COVID-19 webpage: www.oshawa.ca/coronavirus.

Although our City facilities are temporarily closed to the public, Service Oshawa is available online, over the phone or by email.

Phone: 905-436-3311

Email: service@oshawa.ca

Online Services: service.oshawa.ca

Community members concerned about their health are asked to use the Ontario COVID-19 self-assessment tool to determine if they need to seek care or refer to Lakeridge Health's COVID-19 Assessment Clinic.

April 9, 2020

With strong controls, Canada could see 11,000 to 22,000 coronavirus deaths: officials

Officials have been under pressure to release national coronavirus scenarios for weeks.

April 9, 2020

Durham Region Notice: Share your support virtually with Durham workplaces

Based on guidance from public health experts, Region of Durham workplaces are not accepting homemade food, flowers or other gifts – but you can still share your support virtually.

Based on current evidence, COVID-19 can live on some surfaces for a period of time. Due to this fact, the dropping off of non-essential items increases the risk of contact between people.

To limit the potential spread of the virus, the Region of Durham is asking the community to consider sharing their support for front-line workers virtually.

Here are some of the ways you can let our front-line staff know they have your support:

All front-line staff:

Share a Twitter or Facebook post and tag @RegionofDurham and #DurhamStrong.

Share your message through the Region's staff compliment form. Your message will be shared with the appropriate team.

Long-term care staff:

Send an electronic message, which will be shared with long-term care staff. A submission form is available at durham.ca/LTCupdates.

Durham Region Transit staff:

Fill out our Customer Comment form or share a Twitter post and tag @Durham_Transit or through Facebook by tagging @durhamregiontransit. Your post and your feedback will be shared with the team.

Region of Durham staff truly appreciate each and every 'thank you' from the community as they work to provide essential services during this unprecedented time.

April 9, 2020

Share your support virtually with Durham workplaces

Whitby, Ontario – Based on guidance from public health experts, Region of Durham workplaces are not accepting homemade food, flowers or other gifts – but you can still share your support virtually.

Based on current evidence, COVID-19 can live on some surfaces for a period of time. Due to this fact, the dropping off of non-essential items increases the risk of contact between people.

To limit the potential spread of the virus, the Region of Durham is asking the community to consider sharing their support for front-line workers virtually.

Here are some of the ways you can let our front-line staff know they have your support:

All front-line staff:

Share a Twitter or Facebook post and tag @RegionofDurham and #DurhamStrong.

Share your message through the Region's staff compliment form. Your message will be shared with the appropriate team.

Long-term care staff:

Send an electronic message, which will be shared with long-term care staff. A submission form is available at durham.ca/LTCupdates.

Durham Region Transit staff:

Fill out our Customer Comment form or share a Twitter post and tag @Durham_Transit or through Facebook by tagging @durhamregiontransit. Your post and your feedback will be shared with the team.

Region of Durham staff truly appreciate each and every 'thank you' from the community as they work to provide essential services during this unprecedented time.

"We are taking every precaution at our long-term care homes, and that means we are not accepting homemade food, flowers or other gifts. Please consider sharing your words of encouragement and support to our team electronically. A simple thank you goes a long way."

- Stella Danos-Papaconstantinou, Commissioner of Social Services

"Durham Region Transit has implemented several measures to ensure the continued safety of customers and staff, including physical distancing onboard and encouraging customers to travel for essential purposes only. Our employees are proud to support the community we serve during this unprecedented time and staff appreciate the positive feedback they are receiving online."

- Bill Holmes, General Manager, Durham Region Transit

April 8, 2020

Stay informed on the latest City of Oshawa updates during COVID-19

The City of Oshawa is committed to helping community members stay informed and connected with the City to receive timely and reliable updates and resources during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Communication is so important – knowledge enables us to make educated decisions that contribute to the well-being of our family, friends, neighbours and community," said Oshawa Mayor Dan Carter. "We are dedicated to keeping you informed, to answering your questions, and to encouraging you through the sharing of stories of kindness online, in print and through radio and television. We are facing COVID-19 together; I encourage you to take the time to connect with us on whatever platform works best for you!"

There are a number of ways to find and receive City information.

Website

The City continues to post regular updates to its dedicated COVID-19 webpage that features updates on City closures, cancellations, changes to services and resources, as well as a frequently asked questions section. Community members can also view the most recent video from Mayor Carter, read City and Regional public notices and browse key information from the Province of Ontario, The Regional Municipality of Durham and the Durham Region Health Department.

Newspaper, Radio and Television

Local media offers a variety of options to enable connections with the community. Look for the weekly column that Mayor Carter contributes to both the Oshawa Express and Oshawa This Week newspapers. The Mayor also appears on Global News Durham, RogersTV Durham and on Durham Radio to provide updates on the City's response to COVID-19. Local radio stations CKDO, 94.9 The Rock and KX96 are also airing the City's public service announcements.

Live at Five

Community members on Instagram are invited to join us for Live at Five where Mayor Carter will answer your questions and provide information about how the City is responding to COVID-19. This interactive series airs weekdays (on business days) at 5:00 p.m. on the City's Instagram account (@cityofoshawa). Follow the City on Instagram and turn on notifications for Live videos to receive an alert when the Live videos begin.

Video updates

Mayor Carter provides regular video updates to the community featuring new and ongoing initiatives related to COVID-19. View these updates weekdays (on business days) on the COVID-19 webpage, or subscribe and view the videos on the City's YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/OshawaCity. The video updates are also posted to the City's social media accounts.

Social Media

The City shares local news and timely updates on various social media channels. Stay connected with us on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, YouTube and Connect Oshawa.

Community members are encouraged to share their stories, photos and videos of kindness and support they have seen amid COVID-19 on social media using #OurOshawa. Those looking to spread messages of kindness even further are encouraged to use #OshawaStrong, #OshawaProud and #DurhamStrong.

Those without social media can email Mayor Carter directly at mayor@oshawa.ca.

Email Subscription Options

Let City of Oshawa information come to you! Subscribe to Public Notices and News Releases for the latest COVID-19 updates and videos to be delivered to your email. Additionally, sign up to receive updates specific to your neighbourhood by selecting your ward news. What's my ward? Find out now. Subscribe now at www.oshawa.ca/subscribe.

Service Oshawa

Although our City facilities are temporarily closed to the public, City staff continue to serve the community.

Service Oshawa is available Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. (on business days) by:

Phone: 905-436-3311

Email: service@oshawa.ca

Live Chat: www.oshawa.ca/city-hall/Contact-Us

Online Services: www.oshawa.ca/online-services

Regional and Provincial Resources

Community members concerned about their health are asked to use the Ontario COVID-19 self-assessment tool to determine if they need to seek care or refer to Lakeridge Health's COVID-19 Assessment Clinic. For the most up-to-date public information about COVID-19 in Durham Region, refer to www.durham.ca/NovelCoronavirus.

April 8, 2020

Coronavirus: Canada lost 1 million jobs in March

The unemployment rate jumped 2.2 per cent to 7.8 per cent, the largest one-month jump since comparable record-keeping began in 1976.

April 8, 2020

COVID-19 Update 17: waste collection changes this holiday weekend; yard waste pickup continues at the curb

Although there are some changes to City of Oshawa services due to COVID-19, City waste collection staff continue to provide curbside waste collection for households, including yard waste collection at the curb.

Changes to waste collection service due to the holiday weekend

There will be no waste collection service on Friday, April 10 and Monday, April 13.

Residents who normally receive waste collection on Fridays are reminded that due to Good Friday, waste will instead be collected on Saturday, April 11.

Waste collection during the week of April 13 will occur one day later than your regularly scheduled collection day due to the Easter Monday holiday.

Waste collection reminders

To avoid being missed, place waste at the curb no later than 7:00 a.m. the day of collection on clear portions of your driveway.

Please ensure all waste and green bin material is tied and secured in a bag. Loose materials will not be collected.

The City has increased the four-bag limit to six bags for garbage collection and waived the requirement for garbage bag tags. At this time, this is in effect until further notice. Despite this increase, we ask community members not to overburden collection operators unnecessarily – continue to practise waste reduction by utilizing blue boxes and green bins and respect the weight limit of 20 kg.

Yard waste collection occurs every other week on the same day as your garbage and is collected from mid-April until the end of November. Residents are asked to check the Waste Collection Calendar and Information Guide for details about collection and to verify start and end dates. We advise that there may be delays in service due to increased volume of material.

Please join us in thanking our waste collection staff and to respect and maintain physical distancing of 6 feet (2 metres).

Check your waste collection calendar for more information, visit our Waste webpage, or download the "Durham Region Waste" app.

Information and City updates

The City continues to post updates and F.A.Q.s to its COVID-19 webpage: www.oshawa.ca/coronavirus.

Due to the Easter holiday, Service Oshawa will be closed on Friday, April 10 and Monday, April 13.
For more information on Service Oshawa, including to submit many common service requests online, visit: www.oshawa.ca/city-hall/service-oshawa.asp.

Community members concerned about their health are asked to use the Ontario COVID-19 self-assessment tool to determine if they need to seek care or refer to Lakeridge Health's COVID-19 Assessment Clinic.

April 8, 2020

Ajax Council launches \$25,000 COVID-19 Special Response Fund

On behalf of Ajax Council, Mayor Shaun Collier announced via video that 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 that are providing COVID-19 relief to individuals and families in Ajax. This includes operations that provide meal, grocery and prescription medication deliveries, arts and educational support, mental health and well-being services. Groups can apply for up to \$5,000.

A simple, easy form can be completed online at ajax.ca/covid19.

"COVID-19 has changed our entire landscape, and for many this has been devastating. Ajax Council is proud to support our community groups and vulnerable populations during this difficult and uncertain time. Grassroots organizations have really stepped up to fill in identified gaps, complementing and enhancing programming and services offered by governments and agencies. We are grateful to those who are volunteering their own time and resources to serve others, and we wanted to provide tangible relief in support of these extraordinary efforts."

~ Mayor Shaun Collier, Town of Ajax

Quick Facts

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

For news and updates as they happen, follow the Town of Ajax on social media:

[Facebook.com/myajax](https://www.facebook.com/myajax)

[Instagram.com/townofajax](https://www.instagram.com/townofajax)

[Twitter.com/townofajax](https://twitter.com/townofajax)

April 8, 2020

Town of Ajax News 4/8/2020 1:23:49 PM

COVID-19 Ajax Updates

Welcome to the COVID-19 Ajax information hub. Here you will find the latest information and updates. Please check back for regular updates. You can also follow us on social media for additional news: Twitter, Facebook and Instagram.

We've received many questions from the community about COVID-19 impacts in Ajax. To help answer your questions, we've created a helpful top 20 frequently asked questions (FAQ) document.

The health and safety of our community and residents are our number one priority and we continue to monitor the situation very closely.

The Town is following the direction from Durham Region Public Health, who is making their decisions based on the provincial and federal response.

Ajax Council COVID-19 Special Response Fund

The Ajax Council COVID-19 Special Response Fund can be accessed by not-for-profit organizations, community groups and charities that are providing relief to individuals and families, including meal, grocery and prescription medication deliveries, arts and educational support, mental health and well-being services. \$25,000 available, groups can apply for up to \$5,000.

Emergency Declarations

April 6, Town of Ajax declared a state of emergency. Read the full release.

March 24, Region of Durham declared a state of emergency. Read the Region of Durham's release.

March 17, the Province of Ontario enacted a declaration of emergency. The declaration has been extended until April 13.

The Town continues to stress #StayHomeAjax message with declaration of emergency

After careful monitoring of the COVID-19 pandemic, Mayor Shaun Collier has taken the unprecedented step to declare a state of emergency in the Town of Ajax. This was done in close consultation with the Town's Municipal Emergency Control Group.

Today's decision follows Mayor Collier's strong statement about physical distancing on Friday, April 3rd, and is a significant action that underscores the importance of staying at home. This is not a step taken lightly. It is the strongest tool available to a municipality, and ensures that the Town is able to continue to respond quickly and decisively to COVID-19, keeping residents safe.

Public Health leaders are cautioning people that the next two weeks are critical to fighting the virus, stopping community spread and flattening the curve. Ajax is stepping up our messaging and doing everything within our power to support our community during this difficult time. Ajax Council implores the community to take the strongest precautions possible to save lives.

The declaration is effective immediately, and will remain in effect until further notice.

"With Easter long weekend approaching, it is critical that we persevere for the health of our community. We cannot afford to take steps backward. We miss our friends and families, but we are fighting to save lives." said Mayor Shaun Collier. "I continue to ask residents to physically distance, cancel all in-person social activities and stay home. Heed the warnings of provincial and public health orders and observe Town amenity closures. In the difficult days ahead, we must unite as a community with one goal – to reduce the number of COVID-19 cases. We are all in this together. #StayHomeAjax."

"Every measure we have taken to date provides a clear indication of how seriously we take COVID-19, and our responsibility to the people and businesses of Ajax. I want to thank our residents and businesses for every sacrifice they have made, and continue to make. We must all be a part of the solution. The Town remains at your service, to provide information and support. Our website is continually updated, phone lines remain open and social media is monitored. I encourage you to reach out if we can be of assistance during this time of uncertainty." – Shane Baker, CAO

Quick Facts

An "Emergency" is a situation or an impending situation that constitutes a danger of major proportions that could result in serious harm

to persons or substantial damage to property and that is caused by the forces of nature, a disease or other health risk, an accident or an act whether intentional or otherwise. (Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act, R.S.O. 1990,c.E.9)

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

Tax Services - Property Tax penalties waived

No counter service at Town Hall; for inquiries please call 905-683-2718 or email tax@ajax.ca.

Tax payments only being accepted by cheque (Town Hall mailbox), or by direct deposit through your financial institution until further notice. The Town of Ajax has made the decision to waive tax payment penalties for 60 days effective immediately for all residents and businesses. The two month grace period will begin on the April installment with no penalty or interest charged for May or June. In addition, insufficient funds and pre-authorized fees will be waived.

If you have sent a post-dated cheque or have signed up for pre-authorized payments, please contact the Town by April 5, 2020.

Facility Closures

All Town facilities are closed

Ajax Community Centre
McLean Community Centre
Audley Recreation Centre
Village Community Centre and Arena
St. Francis Centre
St. Andrews Centre
Pat Bayly Square (skating & washrooms)
Ajax Creative Arts Centre
Rotary Park Pavilion
Carruthers Marsh Pavillion
Greenwood Discovery Pavillion
Quaker Meeting House
Hartrick House
Ajax Public Libraries (ARC, MCC and Main Branch)

Washrooms at Rotary Park Pavilion, Carruthers Creek Pavilion and Veterans' Point Garden are closed. The washrooms at Pat Bayly Square remain open.

Town Hall - Restricted Access

Access to Town Hall is by appointment only.

This service is only for matters requiring immediate attention and staff support, and cannot be accomplished through other means.

All guests are being screened and appointment information will be required at the door.

Please email contactus@ajax.ca or call 905-683-4550 to set up an appointment.

All deliveries are being accepted.

Access to Town Hall is limited to the Main Doors (parking entrance).

By-Law

Regular by-law enforcement suspended (excludes emergency situations).

Proactive enforcement programs suspended.

Sign permits are being processed online via ajax.ca.

Animal services activities suspended (excludes emergencies).

Pet Licensing only available online. Expired pet tags will be forgiven during the COVID-19 Pandemic; we will pursue renewals once Town Hall reopens.

By-law & Animal Phone Lines remain open at 905-619-2529, ext. 3370 and 905-683-8275 respectively.

Parking

Regular parking enforcement suspended (excludes emergency situations).

Proactive parking enforcement programs suspended (e.g. 3 to 6 a.m. parking).

Ticket Review now a phone-based service. Call 905-619-2529, ext. 3340 to arrange.

Parking Ticket payment being accepted by cheque (Town Hall mailbox) or online payment only.

Parking Lots, Road and Trail Closures

Parking Lots

Carruthers Marsh Pavilion Parking Lot - Closed
Greenwood Conservation Area Parking Lot - Closed
Harwood Point Parking Lot - Closed
Hermitage Park Parking Lot - Closed
McClarnnan Road/Lake Driveway West Parking Lot - Closed
Pickering Beach Road and Lakeview Boulevard Parking Lot - Closed
Rotary Park Main Parking Lot - Closed
Bartlett Parking Lot - Closed
Lions Club Parking Lot - Closed
Love Crescent Parking Lot - Closed
Paradise Park Parking Lot - Closed
Rotary Park Boat Launch Parking Lot - Closed
St. Andrews Centre Parking Lot - Closed

Road Closures

Lakeview Boulevard east of Poplar to West of Maple.

Duffins Trail at Church St. S.

Legislative Services (marriages, commissioning of oaths, proclamations, licensing)

All marriage services suspended, including ceremony bookings and licensing.

Commissioning of Oaths suspended. In cases of emergency, please call 905-683-4550 or email contactus@ajax.ca.

Burial Permits being processed by appointment only. Please call 905-683-4550 or email contactus@ajax.ca.

Sale of Blue Boxes, Green Bins, Bag Tags, and Bus Passes suspended.

Death Registration Forms can be dropped off in the Town Hall mailbox or mailed to 65 Harwood Ave. S, ON L1S 2H9.

Business Licensing suspended. Where people's licenses have expired, there will be no requirement to renew; we will pursue renewals once Town Hall re-opens.

Council recognition requests (congratulatory certificates, proclamations, flag-raising) suspended.

Serving Statements of Claim upon the Town by appointment only. Please call 905-683-4550 or email contactus@ajax.ca.

Delegations to Council from external individuals, groups and organizations suspended. Delegation requests can be made online for when normal meeting cycle resumes. Individuals are encouraged to submit written correspondence to Council by e-mail to clerks@ajax.ca.

FOI Requests will only be accepted by email or mail and payment by cheque. All correspondence and documents for release will be mailed to requester.

All archives and history activities suspended.

All in-person accessibility promotion and other public engagement are cancelled.

Outdoor Amenities, Spaces & Playgrounds

Town playgrounds, skate parks, basketball courts, off-leash parks, artificial turfs, soccer fields, tennis courts, picnic shelters, several parking lots and outdoor structures are closed.

Our passive amenities such as green spaces and trails remain open.

In an effort to stop the spread of COVID-19 and keep people home, the Town will be taking measures to ensure that the emergency orders issued by the province are being respected, effective immediately:

Closure of all outdoor recreational facilities as defined by the province

Assisting the Police with enforcing the prohibition of gatherings of more than five people to ensure proper social and physical distancing of two metres apart

New enforcement measures include proactive patrolling, front-line support for Durham Regional Police Service (DRPS) and increased public education at high-traffic outdoor destinations, including the Ajax Waterfront and Greenwood Conservation Area.

We are taking these further steps to protect the health and wellbeing of our community. All actions are based on the advice of leading public health officials and orders issued by the province of Ontario.

These proactive and education enforcement measures are a first step. We are prepared to implement further enforcement measures and/or closures to navigate this health crisis and protect residents if it becomes necessary to stop gathering.

At this time, the Town's enforcement measures are mainly proactive; not complaint-based. Residents should continue to report major non-compliance of provincial orders to DRPS online at www.drps.ca (under Online Services) or call the DRPS Intelligence Branch Hot-line at 1-888-579-1520, ext.5802.

Recreation Services

Summer registration is postponed until further notice.

All recreation programs including spring sessions, drop-ins, pre-registered, public swims and public skates are cancelled.

All facility and outdoor permits (including picnic shelters) are cancelled until the end of June and no new bookings are being processed.

Town of Ajax events and event permits cancelled until the end of June 2020.

Planning and Development Services

No counter service at Town Hall. Please email planningservices@ajax.ca or call 905-619-2529, ext. 3631.

Major Planning Applications (OPA, ZBLA, Subdivision, Condo, Site Plan) and Development Agreements, including associated fees and securities (cheque or certified cheque) are being accepted by courier to Town Hall (65 Harwood Ave. S., ON L1S 2H9), or by pre-arranged drop-off time with a staff person at Town Hall during regular business hours (Monday-Friday from 8:30am-4:30pm). All application forms must be pre-commissioned.

Minor Planning Applications (Sign Variance, Driveway Widening*, Property Information Request, Tree Cutting) are being accepted by mail or courier to Town Hall (65 Harwood Ave. S., ON L1S 2H9); by dropping off at Town Hall (mailbox); or by pre-arranged drop-off time with a staff person at Town Hall during regular business hours (Monday-Friday from 8:30am-4:30pm). All application forms must be pre-commissioned and accompanied by a cheque (we are not accepting cash payments).

*Please note that Driveway Widening applications will only be accepted if they are related to a condition of approval for a Minor Variance.

Minor Variance Applications are being accepted by mail or courier to Town Hall (65 Harwood Ave. S., ON L1S 2H9); by dropping off at Town Hall (mailbox); or by pre-arranged drop-off time with a staff person at Town Hall during regular business hours (Monday-Friday from 8:30am-4:30pm). All application forms must be pre-commissioned and accompanied by a cheque (we are not accepting cash payments).

Heritage Permit Applications and Pickering Village CIP Grant Applications can be emailed to planningservices@ajax.ca.

Procedures for Pre-Consultation Meetings have changed. The Town is still accepting applications, but will not hold in-person meetings until further notice. For information on how to submit a Pre-Consultation Application and have it reviewed, please email: planningservices@ajax.ca

Engineering and Transportation

No counter service at Town Hall.

For Engineering Services - Call: 905-619-2529, ext. 3631 or Email: EngineeringServices@ajax.ca

For Transportation Services (General) - Call: 905-619-2529, ext. 3631 or Email: traffic@ajax.ca

For Transportation Services (Active/Sustainable Transportation) - Call: 905-619-2529, ext. 3631 or Email: GetAjaxMoving@ajax.ca

Engineering Drawing Submissions are being accepted by mail or courier to Town Hall (65 Harwood Ave. S., ON L1S 2H9); by dropping off at Town Hall (mailbox); or by pre-arranged drop-off time with a staff person at Town Hall during regular business hours (Monday-Friday from 8:30am-4:30pm).

Sediment and Erosion Control Permit Applications are being accepted by mail or courier to Town Hall (65 Harwood Ave. S., ON L1S 2H9); by dropping off at Town Hall (mailbox); or by pre-arranged drop-off time with a staff person at Town Hall during regular business hours (Monday-Friday from 8:30am-4:30pm). All application forms must be accompanied by a cheque.

Building Services

No counter service at Town Hall. Please email buildinginspections@ajax.ca or call 905-683-4550.

Building and Demolition Permit Applications (including Site Servicing) are being accepted by mail or courier to Town Hall (65 Harwood Ave. S., ON L1S 2H9); by dropping off at Town Hall (mailbox); or by pre-arranged drop-off time with a staff person at Town Hall during regular business hours (Monday-Friday from 8:30am-4:30pm). All application forms must be accompanied by a cheque.

Alternatively, Building and Demolition Permit Applications can be submitted electronically to: BpApp@ajax.ca.

[Click Here for Building Permit Submission Requirements](#)

Changes to Building Inspections: As part of the Town's ongoing COVID-19 response efforts, effective immediately, the performance of all building inspections that requires the inspector to enter into an occupied dwelling, will be conducted utilizing either Apple Facetime or Google Duo video chat applications. Instructions on how to use these applications for this purpose can be obtained by contacting your assigned Building Inspector, or by emailing buildinginspections@ajax.ca

Business Services

No counter service. Please email priority@ajax.ca or call 365-885-5154.

Film permits are not being processed until further notice.

For the latest business updates and support, please visit the Invest Durham website.
The Province's Stop the Spread Business Information Line is now open at 1-888-444-3659

Fire and Emergency Services

Community outreach programs, including LNTB, GRA, station tours, Grade 3 Presentations, general fire and life safety presentations have been suspended.

Conducting legislated inspection activities only.

Operations and Environmental Services

No promotion or public education events or activities until end of May.

COVID-19 Steering Committee & Municipal Control Group

The Town has established an internal steering committee to oversee our organizational planning and response. This includes our business continuity plans. The Town's Municipal Control Group has been activated.

All municipalities in Ontario must have an emergency response plan and an emergency management program. The plan serves as an operational guideline for the Town in managing an appropriate response to any emergency situation, or impending situation, that threatens life, health, safety and/or property of its residents, businesses and visitors.

Town of Ajax Emergency Response Plan

Council & Committee Meetings

All Council, Advisory, Property Standards and Animal Appeals Committees are cancelled.

Town Events and Public Meetings

Town of Ajax events and public information meetings cancelled until the end of June 2020.

How You Can Help (Donations and Support)

Thank you gifts for Ajax Pickering Hospital

Official drop off locations for "Thank You" donations (e.g., gift certificates) for Ajax Pickering Hospital frontline healthcare employees. The locations have been set up to respond to the amazing generosity and support of the community. Please keep visits to the hospital to emergencies only.

Drop off locations:

Ajax Fire HQ (900 Salem Rd.)
Ajax Fire Station 1 (40 Westney Rd.)
Ajax Fire Station 2 (435 Monarch Ave.)

Resources in the Community

The Region of Durham has created a COVID-19 resources page outlining available supports and how residents can help during COVID-19. The page is updated regularly. Visit the page now at durham.ca/CommunityResources.

Health Authority Information and Resources - How to Protect Yourself

Community members concerned about their health are asked to use the Ontario COVID-19 self-assessment tool to determine if they need to seek care.

Recommendations from Durham Health

To reduce the spread of germs, including COVID-19, the Durham Region Health Department recommends that residents:

Maintain social distancing (2 metres) and avoid large gatherings.

Wash hands often with soap and water and/or hand sanitizer.

Cough or sneeze into their sleeve or elbow and encourage others to do the same.

Avoid touching their face; and clean hands before touching eyes, nose or mouth.

If you are ill, stay at home and keep yourself away from others.

If you are ill and must visit a health-care provider, call ahead or tell them right away when you arrive that you have a respiratory illness and wear a mask while waiting to be seen.

The Region of Durham Health Department advises that if you are displaying symptoms of COVID-19, and have recently returned from travel outside of Canada, please contact your health care provider and Durham Region Health Department at 905-668-2020 or 1-800-841-2729

A full list of recommendations is available at durham.ca/NovelCoronavirus.

Websites

Government of Canada - Travel Notices

Durham Region Public Health

Durham Region COVID-19 Community Resources

Ministry of Health

Government of Canada

World Health Organization

Phone Numbers

Durham Region Health Department at 905-668-2020 or 1-800-841-2729

Telehealth Ontario at 1-866-797-0000

Government of Canada COVID-19 Information Services at 1-833-784-4397

Durham Region Care Mongers

Toll Free: 1-888-573-0982

A local volunteer support group to get supplies to those unable to get out due to self-quarantine, compromised immune systems, age 65+ or otherwise at risk. View attachments below for more information.

April 8, 2020

Mayor Carter's video update for April 8

In his Wednesday, April 8 video message, Oshawa Mayor Dan Carter continues to urge community members to follow government orders not to gather in groups of more than five people and health authority guidelines to stay home as much as possible and maintain a physical distance of 6 feet (2 metres) from others.

Community members can report a gathering of more than five people or a non-compliant business to Durham Regional Police (DRPS) at www.drps.ca under Online Services - Community Concerns or by calling the DRPS non-emergency line at 1-888-579-1520, ext. 5802. Complaints related to City parks and facilities can be reported to Service Oshawa at 905-436-3311.

Mayor Carter can be reached at Mayor@oshawa.ca. To view today's video message, visit and subscribe to the City's YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/OshawaCity.

Instagram Live and #OurOshawa

"Live at Five" with Mayor Carter airs weekdays (on business days) at 5:00 p.m. on the City's Instagram account (@cityofoshawa).

Questions and stories can be shared during Instagram Live or emailed in advance to Mayor@oshawa.ca. Follow the City on Instagram and turn on notifications for Live videos to receive an alert when the Live begins.

Community members are encouraged to share their stories, photos and videos of kindness and support they have seen amid COVID-19 on social media using #OurOshawa. Those looking to spread positive messages even further are encouraged to use #OshawaStrong, #OshawaProud and #DurhamStrong.

Information and City Updates

The City continues to post updates and F.A.Q.s to its COVID-19 webpage: www.oshawa.ca/coronavirus.

Although our City facilities are temporarily closed to the public, Service Oshawa is available online, over the phone or by email.

Phone: 905-436-3311

Email: service@oshawa.ca

Online Services: service.oshawa.ca

Community members concerned about their health are asked to use the Ontario COVID-19 self-assessment tool to determine if they need to seek care or refer to Lakeridge Health's COVID-19 Assessment Clinic.

April 8, 2020

Seasonal leaf and yard waste no longer accepted at Regional waste management facilities but still accepted at the curb

Whitby, Ontario – The Regional Municipality of Durham is advising residents that effective April 7 and until further notice, leaf and yard waste will no longer be accepted at its waste management facilities (WMFs). Residents can instead take advantage of the free curbside leaf and yard waste collection.

This change is to help limit the number of people attending the WMFs and to reduce the number of vehicles on-site. Proof of residency will also help ensure that the Regional WMFs are exclusive to residents of the Region of Durham. To provide proof of residency, residents can present a driver's license or a recent piece of mail or bill with a Regional address.

In order to ensure the safety of clients and our staff during COVID-19, the WMFs have implemented increased safety measures including

limiting the number of people and cars on-site and practicing physical distancing.

Residents are asked to limit their trips to the WMFs and instead check their collection calendar to use the curbside collection for waste, including leaf and yard waste.

Residents taking advantage of the curbside collection for leaf and yard waste must still follow these rules:

Only use paper yard waste bags or clearly labelled, returnable open-top containers. We do not pick up yard waste in cardboard boxes, blue boxes, green bins or plastic bags.

If you are using a reusable open-top container, you should drill holes in the bottom of the container for drainage.

Securely tie brush in bundles up to one metre (three feet) long and 76 centimetres (30 inches) wide. No branch should be more than 10 centimetres

(4 inches) in diameters.

Yard waste cannot weigh more than 20 kilograms (44 pounds).

These updated measures will help us ensure that our services identified as essential by the Province of Ontario, including waste management and household hazardous waste collection, continue to be provided safely to protect the environment and the public.

For more information, visit durham.ca/waste, email waste@durham.ca, call 1-800-667-5671 or download the Durham Region Waste App.

April 8, 2020

550 new coronavirus cases in Ontario, total surpasses 5,000 cases with 174 deaths

Ontario reported 550 new cases of the novel coronavirus on Wednesday, and 21 more deaths, bringing the provincial total to 5,276 cases.

April 7, 2020

Mayor Carter's video update for April 7

In his Tuesday, April 7 video message, Oshawa Mayor Dan Carter talks about his decision to declare a local state of emergency for the City of Oshawa emphasizing that health authorities have indicated the next 14 days are crucial to slowing the spread of COVID-19.

Mayor Carter urges all of us to follow government orders to not gather in groups of more than five people and health authority guidelines to stay home as much as possible and keep a physical distance of 6 feet (2 metres) from others.

Mayor Carter can be reached at Mayor@oshawa.ca. To view today's video message, visit and subscribe to the City's YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/OshawaCity.

Instagram Live and #OurOshawa

"Live at Five" with Mayor Carter airs weekdays (on business days) at 5:00 p.m. on the City's Instagram account (@cityofoshawa).

Questions and stories can be shared during Instagram Live or emailed in advance to Mayor@oshawa.ca. Follow the City on Instagram and turn on notifications for Live videos to receive an alert when the Live begins.

Community members are encouraged to share their stories, photos and videos of kindness and support they have seen amid COVID-19 on social media using #OurOshawa. Those looking to spread positive messages even further are encouraged to use #OshawaStrong, #OshawaProud and #DurhamStrong.

Information and City Updates

The City continues to post updates and F.A.Q.s to its COVID-19 webpage: www.oshawa.ca/coronavirus.

Although our City facilities are temporarily closed to the public, Service Oshawa is available online, over the phone or by email.

Phone: 905-436-3311

Email: service@oshawa.ca

Online Services: service.oshawa.ca

Community members concerned about their health are asked to use the Ontario COVID-19 self-assessment tool to determine if they need to seek care or refer to Lakeridge Health's COVID-19 Assessment Clinic.

April 7, 2020

Durham Region recognizes the importance of the agriculture sector

Whitby, Ontario – The following statement is being issued on behalf of John Henry, Regional Chair and Chief Executive Officer for The Regional Municipality of Durham:

"Agriculture in Durham Region is a vital service that ensures residents have access to fresh, high-quality and safe food options to feed themselves and their families. Since the COVID-19 outbreak, Durham's agri-food producers and businesses have continued to ensure access to safe farm-fresh products.

Many operators within our region have stepped up in this challenging time and changed the way they do business to continue serve our community. They are offering virtual sales, no-contact deliveries and pick up options in addition to the food available in grocery stores. Residents can also sign up for Community Supported Agriculture Shares, where fresh fruit and/or vegetables are delivered right to your door on a weekly or monthly basis.

Our agriculture sector is one of the largest primary goods producing sectors in in the region, with more than 1,300 farms and 4,000 agriculture related businesses in Durham. We will continue to work with our counterparts at all levels of government to highlight the important contributions of the agriculture sector, and advocate for greater supports.

You can find information about local food and agriculture products available across the region by visiting investdurham.ca/LocalFood or durhamfarmfresh.ca.

We continue to take pride in the contributions of the entire agriculture sector and stand with the farmers and agri-business operators across the region. Thank you for everything you do."

April 7, 2020

Holiday Hours: Easter Weekend

The City has implemented preventative measures to protect the safety, health and well-being of community members and staff. For the

latest on City of Oshawa closures, programming and operations, visit: www.oshawa.ca/coronavirus.

City Hall and Recreation Facilities

In response to continuing efforts to help slow the spread of COVID-19 and support physical distancing, City facilities and outdoor amenities are temporarily closed to the public until further notice. This includes City Hall, community and recreation facilities and more. Additional details are available in the April 1 Public Notice.

All Recreation and Culture programs scheduled for the Spring session have been cancelled. Additional information regarding refunds is available in the March 27 Public Notice.

Service Oshawa

Even though doors are closed, City staff are still here for you. Service Oshawa is available Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. by:

Phone: 905-436-3311

Email: service@oshawa.ca

Live chat: www.oshawa.ca/city-hall/Contact-Us

Online services: www.oshawa.ca/online-services

Due to the Easter holiday, Service Oshawa will be closed on Friday, April 10 and Monday, April 13.

Waste Services

There will be no waste collection service on Friday, April 10 and Monday, April 13.

Residents who normally receive waste collection on Fridays are reminded that due to Good Friday, waste will instead be collected on Saturday, April 11.

Waste collection during the week of April 13 will occur one day later than your regularly scheduled collection day due to the Easter Monday holiday.

To avoid being missed, place waste at the curb no later than 7:00 a.m. the day of collection on clear portions of your driveway.

While the City has temporarily increased the garbage bag limit for each waste collection to six-bags and waived the need for bag tags, we ask that you continue to do your best to reduce and limit waste. Please ensure all waste is tied and secured.

Additionally, please join us in thanking our waste collection staff for the work they are doing to keep our community safe and clean from a safe, physical distance.

Please check your waste collection calendar for more information, or visit our Waste webpage and download the “Durham Region Waste” app.

April 7, 2020

City of Oshawa’s Business Telephone Town Hall addressed COVID-19 economic impact and recovery

On April 1, City of Oshawa Mayor Dan Carter and Regional Councillor Tito-Dante Marimpietri, Chair of the Development Services Committee, led a panel of city leaders to address the current impact of COVID-19, relief efforts underway and to begin discussing economic recovery efforts.

Held in partnership with the Greater Oshawa Chamber of Commerce and the Downtown Oshawa BIA, the live telephone town hall event:

- Covered the City of Oshawa’s response to COVID-19, including existing relief efforts.

- Provided information and resources to navigate the current economic environment.

- Provided an opportunity to share ideas and guide the City of Oshawa’s on-going discussions with all levels of government.

- Included a moderated Q&A with the panel.

Mayor Carter and Regional Councillor Marimpietri stressed the need to engage and hear from the business community with respect to their current situation, as well as ideas that will help inform our recovery efforts and discussion with the other levels of government. Local businesses are encouraged to contact business@oshawa.ca

The session outlined a number of measures that have already taken place in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, which include:

- The City of Oshawa’s Pandemic Steering Team that meets daily to assess the evolving situation and to guide the City’s efforts.

- The City’s Economic Development Services branch involvement in a Region-wide economic task force that is centralizing information and resources for the business community. This resource is available online at www.investdurham.ca/covidresponse.

- Waiving tax payment penalties and interest for 60 days for all businesses and residents effective with the April tax installment.

- The City’s Planning and Building branches continue to receive development and building permit applications. The City’s Buildings branch continues to provide building inspections.

- Business and taxi licences due to expire in March and April have been extended to May 31 to allow individuals and businesses more time to submit and process these applications. Applications are available online, and renewal notices are currently being mailed.

- Free parking in downtown Oshawa at all metered on-street locations and select municipal parking lots, effective until further notice (time limits for parking still apply).

- Additional Durham Regional Police Service patrols in downtown Oshawa.

- 45-day emergency relief on energy rates, with businesses being charged an off-peak rate 7 days per week while extending current suspension of disconnections for low-volume small business customers until July 31, 2020.

- Durham Region has suspended all water and sewer bill late payment charges, collection notification and water shut-offs for non-payment. The Region is offering payment flexibility for those unable to pay water and sewer bills on time.

The panel also highlighted a number of positive local business efforts to help stop the spread of COVID-19. In Oshawa, Frère Du Nord has converted its operations to produce personal protective equipment and All or Nothing Brewhouse has also converted some of its operations to produce hand sanitizer for local health partners.

“I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to the business community for stepping up and assisting the community. The generosity displayed in providing supplies to medical professionals, assisting the vulnerable and being creative during this time is truly appreciated,” said Oshawa Mayor Dan Carter. “This is a difficult time for businesses and we have made financial decisions that will provide some relief for our local businesses. As your Mayor, I am here for you and welcome any opportunity to address your ideas and concerns.”

“This is an extremely trying and unprecedented time, and I wish to echo the Mayor’s sentiments, with empathetic respect to everyone in our community for doing their part to follow COVID-19 recommendations, and immense gratitude especially toward those providing front line service each day as we fight this war for our health and wellbeing. Our local business community, particularly small business owners

and employees have been impacted deeply as a result of the effects caused by the threat of COVID-19. As your Chair, I am committed to ensuring that the City of Oshawa continues to take action and engage in relief efforts to help you. By working tirelessly as a team, and with a firsthand understanding of what we need to do, our community will continue to show its resilience as we deal with the COVID-19 pandemic. We are all in this together," said Councillor Tito-Dante Marimpietri, Chair of the Development Services Committee. "It remains vitally important that the City continues to engage the community and its local business leaders as we share ideas and advocate with leaders at all levels of government to form easier more accessible assistance measures and packages to provide the many in our community who need the help to defend from the devastating effects of this novel threat."

"The Greater Oshawa Chamber of Commerce, is grateful for Mayor Carter's and Councillor Marimpietri's leadership at the city as well as their team" said Nancy Shaw, CEO of the Greater Oshawa Chamber of Commerce. "As we move through this unprecedented time, the Chamber continues to be your informed voice of business, advocating for all businesses, keeping you informed with up to date information."

"There are no rules for this situation that continues to unfold and change daily, but by communicating and working together, while staying apart we can get through this," said Ivano Labricciosa, President and CEO, Oshawa Power and Chair of the Downtown BIA Board. "As we navigate our way through this new reality, it is truly amazing to see the business community come together and support each other, the community, and the frontline workers. The Downtown BIA and Oshawa Power will continue to support local businesses and help them persevere through these uncharted times."

Members of the regional business community are encouraged to visit www.investdurham.ca/covidresponse for centralized information, resources and developments. Businesses that did not have an opportunity to participate in the Town Hall with questions are encouraged to contact Oshawa Economic Development Services at business@oshawa.ca to provide open-ended feedback.

For more information on Economic Development Services, visit www.oshawa.ca/business or follow @InvestOshawa on Twitter. The City continues to post updates and F.A.Q.s to its COVID-19 webpage: Oshawa.ca/Coronavirus. Although our City facilities are temporarily closed to the public, Service Oshawa is available online, over the phone or by email. Community members concerned about their health are asked to use the Ontario COVID-19 self-assessment tool to determine if they need to seek care or refer to Lakeridge Health's COVID-19 Assessment Clinic.

April 7, 2020

Bruce Power Unit 1 hits milestone of 600 days of reliable operation delivering clean power to Ontario

Tuesday, April 7, 2020 – Bruce Power's Unit 1 marked 600 consecutive days of steady operation April 6, a record run of providing clean, reliable, cost-effective energy to the people of Ontario.

Unit 1's run of uninterrupted production is the longest since it was returned to service in 2012 and is an excellent example of the benefits to Ontario families and businesses from extending the life of its nuclear fleet.

Units 1 and 2 were returned to service in 2012 after the Bruce A station was shut down by the former Ontario Hydro in the 1990s. Units 3 and 4 were restarted in 2003 and '04 and have performed at the highest levels since. Units 3 and 4 are part of Bruce Power's Life-Extension Program and will undergo their own Major Component Replacement Projects from 2023-28, adding about 30 years of life to the reactors. The refurbishment, or Major Component Replacement, of Bruce Power's Unit 6 has begun and will be followed by Unit 3, scheduled to begin in 2023.

"Unit 1's exemplary performance over the past two years highlights the fact that refurbished reactor units perform very well and provide benefits to Ontario's families, hospitals and businesses by generating low-cost, reliable electricity 24 hours a day, seven days a week," said Len Clewett, Bruce Power's Chief Nuclear Officer.

In addition to this strong record of reliability, Bruce Power has made investments in all eight units on site to offer additional flexibility to Ontario's electricity market. Of the 6,400 megawatts (MW) of capacity from its site, there are 2,400 MW of flexible capability which has been utilized many times. The company achieved this flexibility through enhancements on the non-nuclear side of the plant. Nuclear power accounts for more than 60 per cent of Ontario's supply, with Bruce Power providing more than 30 per cent of the province's electricity at 30 per cent less than the average cost to generate residential power.

April 7, 2020

Ontario Calls on all Health Care Workers to Help Fight COVID-19

Province Launches Online Portal to Match Available Health Care Workers with Employers

TORONTO — The Ontario government is taking further action to stop the spread of COVID-19 by actively recruiting health care workers to increase the frontline capacity of hospitals, clinics, and assessment centres. Today, the province is launching a new online tool that will help match skilled frontline workers with employers.

The new Health Workforce Matching Portal will enable health care providers with a range of experience to join the province's response to COVID-19. Those providers include retired or non-active health care professionals, internationally educated health care professionals, students, and volunteers with health care experience. The portal will efficiently match the availability and skillsets of frontline health care workers to the employers in need of assistance to perform a variety of public health functions, such as case and contact management. "Our health care heroes on the frontlines of this battle are doing extraordinary work, but they need reinforcements to step up and lend a hand to help defeat this virus," said Premier Doug Ford. "Whether you're retired or in training, we can't afford to have people with professional health care skills who want to help sitting on the sidelines during this crisis. This is a call to action and I encourage every available person with health care experience to get involved."

Employers and interested health care professionals can visit the portal [here](#) and create a profile. Once registered, professionals can add their availability and employers can enter their request for support. Registrants will receive an email notification if matched.

"Since the beginning of this outbreak, we have heard from thousands of volunteers who want to help in any way they can," said Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health. "We are very grateful for those stepping up during these unprecedented times. That's why we are using everything possible to support these frontline healthcare workers as they fight the spread of this virus."

On April 1, Ontario issued a new emergency order under the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act, to enhance the public health units' human resources capacity and support their ongoing fight against COVID-19.

April 7, 2020

Ontario reports 379 new coronavirus cases, total reaches 4,726 and 153 deaths

Ontario reported 379 new coronavirus cases on Tuesday, including 21 deaths, bringing the provincial total to 4,726 cases.

The death toll has risen to 153.

The province has 614 hospitalized patients due to COVID-19, the disease caused by the virus, with 233 patients in intensive care units and 187 in ICUs on a ventilator.

Provincial officials also reported 1,802 patients have recovered from the virus.

Ontario health workers have tested 81,364 people for COVID-19 which is only 2,568 tests since Monday where the total tested was 78,796.

Over the last week, the province has typically tested about four to six thousand people a day. Of the 2,568 tests about 14.76 per cent of cases were positive.

There are 691 people currently under investigation awaiting test results.

Tuesday's report marks an 8.7 per cent increase in cases, compared to 7.7 per cent on Monday, 11.2 per cent on Sunday, 11.5 per cent on Saturday and 16.5 per cent on Friday.

1:51 Inmates at some Ontario jails being released to stop the possible spread of COVID-19

"We should never sit back, this can come with vengeance," Premier Doug Ford said at a news conference on Tuesday, referring to a decline in positive cases over the last few days.

"If we see a little decline by no means should we be sitting back and thinking that the curve is going the other way. If we see two, three weeks of the curve going down, then we are in the right direction but that doesn't mean let up in any means. We have to keep going hard, right to the end, every single day and every single minute."

Greater Toronto Area public health units account for 51.5 per cent of all cases in the province.

April 6, 2020

Emergency Operations Update: Mayor Carter declares a state of emergency for Oshawa

Mayor Dan Carter today declared a local state of emergency for the City of Oshawa in response to health authorities indicating that the next 14 days are crucial to slowing the spread of COVID-19.

With the statutory holiday weekend upon us, it is critical that we follow government orders to not gather in groups of more than five people and health authority guidelines to stay home as much as possible and keep a physical distance of 6 feet (2 metres) from others. Everyone has a role to play.

"It is devastating to hear reports from police and municipal by-law officers that community members are ignoring the Ontario Government's order not to gather in groups of more than five people. Declaring a state of emergency for Oshawa serves as a really clear signal that people need to stay home. We have taken proactive measures and closed our facilities and outdoor amenities and we're relying on everyone in our community to do their part."

"Every effort must be made by each of us to protect our families, friends and the community – only go outside for essential trips, avoid close contact and maintain physical distancing, don't gather in groups, and continue to follow recommendations of provincial health officials," said Fire Chief Derrick Clark, Oshawa's Community Emergency Management Coordinator.

On Friday, March 13, the City of Oshawa activated its Emergency Plan and City Council delegated authority to the Mayor and Chief Administrative Officer for use in emergencies. These measures provide the City the ability to make key decisions to maintain business continuity to manage the COVID-19 pandemic. The City has established key objectives and protocols to keep critical services operating and providing service to the community and we continue to focus on business continuity and maintaining critical functions and services.

The City continues to work with Durham Regional Police Services on enforcement. Under the Ontario Government's Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act, failure to comply with an emergency order could carry punishments of up to one-year imprisonment or a fine of up to \$100,000 for an individual.

Community members can report a gathering of more than five people or a non-compliant business on www.drps.ca under Online Services - Community Concerns or call the DRPS non-emergency line at 1-888-579-1520, ext. 5802 and leave a message.

The City continues to post updates to its Coronavirus webpage. For a list of closures, changes to services, more information and F.A.Q.s, visit www.Oshawa.ca/Coronavirus.

Community members concerned about their health are asked to use the Ontario COVID-19 self-assessment tool to determine if they need to seek care or refer to Lakeridge Health's COVID-19 Assessment Clinic.

April 6, 2020

Vulnerable long-term care residents at risk without urgent action on COVID-19

The tens of thousands of elderly and vulnerable residents who call long-term care (LTC) facilities their home must be protected from COVID-19 using all health and safety measures necessary, demands Ontario Nurses' Association (ONA) President Vicki McKenna, RN.

"Our long-term care residents have lived in and supported this province for most of their lives. They are the heart and soul of Ontario, and have put in years of endless hard work to make Ontario strong and vibrant," notes McKenna. "Now is the time for Ontario to take tireless efforts to protect them."

"We must ensure appropriate staffing, evidence-based infection control protections, and safe working conditions in long-term care. This would be the start to protecting our residents."

Working conditions in some long-term care homes are abysmal, McKenna says. "In some homes, there is limited personal protective equipment (PPE) for health-care workers, and many homes are reporting that they are running out of much-needed supplies. It's horrifying." In addition, government must ensure directives regarding proper PPE are clear, proactive and updated to also apply to nurses in long-term care homes. "Administrative support to train staff and proper controls must be in place. If nurses are not safe, our residents are not safe," McKenna says.

In addition, it is very common for nurses and health-care professionals to work in multiple LTC homes. "This piecemeal approach with casual and part-time workers coming in and out of various homes is very unsafe in this pandemic. Workers in long-term care must have the right to work in one home with full-time hours and work with the same residents. This approach is also best for our residents and decreases the impact of any potential spread of COVID-19."

"Registered nurses have clinical judgement, and know about safe infection prevention and control practices. The COVID-19 pandemic is not slowing down in long-term care; in fact it's speeding up," McKenna says. "If volunteers and unskilled workers are brought in to long-term care homes to help, we must ensure that they are supported and trained. We call on the government to take immediate action and provide mandatory direction on infection control training for long-term care workers and ensure a continuous supply of PPE. Our residents in long-term care deserve this and should expect no less."

ONA is calling for proper PPE in long-term care. More than 15,000 people have sent in their support through ONA's targeted emailer (www.ona.org/ppe) calling on the government to ensure health-care workers have access to PPE. More actions will be rolled out in the coming days.

ONA is the union representing more than 68,000 registered nurses and health-care professionals, as well as 18,000 nursing student affiliates, providing care in hospitals, long-term care facilities, public health, the community, clinics and industry.

April 6, 2020

Province Providing One-time Financial Assistance During School and Child Care Closures

TORONTO — The Ontario government is offering direct financial support to parents while Ontario schools and child care centres remain closed as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak.

The new Support for Families initiative offers a one-time payment of \$200 per child 0 to 12 years of age, and \$250 for those 0 to 21 years of age with special needs.

The announcement was made today by Premier Doug Ford, Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health, and Stephen Lecce, Minister of Education.

"During this extraordinary time, we're doing everything we can to support parents to keep everyone safe and ensure our children continue to learn and stay mentally active," said Premier Ford. "This one-time funding will allow parents to access additional tools for our kids to use while at home and studying remotely. I want to remind everyone to stay at home and only go out if absolutely necessary. It's the only way we are going to defeat this terrible virus."

"Our aim during these extraordinarily challenging times is to continue supporting those impacted hardest by the COVID-19 outbreak — Ontario families," said Minister Lecce. "School and child care closures have disrupted family life a great deal and our government will do whatever it takes to support them and keep them safe. This funding will flow to parents directly, to offer them immediate relief during this difficult time."

Families can complete a simple online application at Ontario's Support for Families web page to access this financial support. Parents already receiving Support for Parents payments through direct deposit will be automatically eligible for this financial support and do not need to submit a new application.

"As we reach a critical juncture in our fight against COVID-19, it's important schools and child care centres remain closed," said Minister Elliott. "Keeping Ontarians safe is our number one priority and it's also our duty to help parents who are supporting their children and families during this unprecedented time."

Through this initiative the government is providing over \$300 million in relief to parents across Ontario as part of Ontario's Action Plan: Responding to COVID-19.

"With schools and child care closed, life has become more difficult for families and they need some extra help," said Rod Phillips, Minister of Finance. "Ontario's Action Plan: Responding to COVID-19, includes \$7 billion in direct support for people and jobs, and \$10 billion in cash flow support for people and businesses. This \$17 billion plan includes direct relief for parents when they need it the most."

QUICK FACTS

Ontario public schools will remain closed to teachers until Friday, May 1, 2020, and to students until Monday, May 4, 2020, to keep Ontario's students safe from COVID-19. Private schools, licensed child care centres and EarlyON programs will also remain closed until April 13, according to the Declaration of Emergency, which only allows closures to be extended for one 14-day period at a time.

On March 22, Ontario announced its effort to support health care and frontline workers with emergency child care services across the province. Frontline workers who make use of these services are also eligible for this one-time payment.

The Government reiterated its focus on positive mental health supports for students dealing with the challenges of COVID-19. Premier Ford announced an investment of up to \$12 million to deliver online and virtual mental health supports across our province, supporting students, families and frontline workers.

Ontario launched the second phase of Learn at Home and Apprendre à la maison, a new online portal that provides resources for families so students can continue their education while schools are closed due to the ongoing COVID-19 situation.

Visit Ontario's website to learn more about how the province continues to protect Ontarians from COVID-19.

April 6, 2020

Ontario Takes Additional Measures to Protect First Responders During the COVID-19 Outbreak

TORONTO — Today, Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health, and Sylvia Jones, Solicitor General, issued the following statement regarding new emergency measures to protect Ontario's first responders and stop the spread of COVID-19:

"First responders put their lives on the line every day to protect Ontarians and they are at great risk of being directly exposed to COVID-19 as they fulfill their frontline duties. We must do everything in our power to ensure the health and well-being of those working on the frontlines and provide them with the tools they need to do their jobs and keep Ontarians safe.

With their safety and health in mind, our government has made an emergency order that will allow police, firefighters and paramedics to obtain COVID-19 positive status information about individuals with whom they are coming into contact.

During this pandemic, it is crucial that our first responders have access to this critical information when they are preparing to respond to an emergency in order to protect themselves and the public and help stop the spread of this virus.

The information disclosed will be limited to an individual's name, address, date of birth, and whether the individual has had a positive COVID-19 test result. Strict protocols will be enforced to limit access to this information and will only be used to allow first responders to take appropriate safety precautions to protect themselves and the communities they serve.

Once the declaration of emergency is lifted, this data will be made inaccessible to first responders.

We will continue to take decisive action to stop the spread of COVID-19 and protect the health and safety of all Ontarians."

April 3, 2020

Below is a snapshot of the upcoming events based on the categories you have subscribed to.

| Date | Event |
|------|-------|
|------|-------|

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| April 7 2020, 12:30 PM to 2:30 PM | Historic Church Open Doors Tuesdays |
| April 7 2020, 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM | Ajax Outspoken Speakers Toastmasters Club |
| April 8 2020, 1:00 PM to 2:00 PM | Barefoot Health Breastfeeding Support Drop In |
| April 9 2020, 7:00 PM to 10:00 PM | Property Standards / Animal Services Appeal Committee - CANCELLED |

If you would like to unsubscribe please click the link below:

<http://events.ajax.ca/Default/Unsubscribe/3bec88a0-bbe5-4aee-b462-ab1200aee2cd>

April 3, 2020

Join the campaign: Let's show how #DurhamStrong our community is

Whitby, Ontario –The Region of Durham is highlighting the incredible stories of community resiliency and kindness as we all continue to do our part to flatten the curve of COVID-19.

The #DurhamStrong campaign celebrates all the positive and inspirational stories from across the region: sidewalks chalked with inspiring messages and art, thank-you messages for front-line workers, neighbours dropping off groceries and other necessities, and people doing their part to practise social distancing and stay home.

All Durham residents are invited to join in and help spread love, kindness and encouragement to all homes and workplaces in Durham. Here's how you can take part:

Show how you're spreading kindness in the community by using #DurhamStrong on social media. Post your photos and tag @RegionofDurham on Facebook or Twitter. The Region is resharing these posts with #DurhamStrong.

Add the #DurhamStrong Facebook frame to your profile picture or Facebook stories to help spread the word. Select your profile picture to add a frame, and search #DurhamStrong or 'Durham Region' to add it to your profile.

Download the Region of Durham's free Facebook and Twitter cover photos to help promote social distancing.

Keep doing your part to flatten the curve: practise social distancing and stay home. Wash your hands and avoid touching your face.

Follow the Region of Durham on Facebook or Twitter to join the conversation and see how your friends, family and neighbours are staying #DurhamStrong.

"Thank you for your strong response to help us all overcome the COVID-19 global pandemic. Our community has really come together to do what is needed, and to help those who are most vulnerable, during this emergency. Together we are #DurhamStrong."

- John Henry, Regional Chair and Chief Executive Officer

"Durham Region is here for you. Our staff are working hard to deliver the essential services you and your family need. I want you to know that your messages of kindness for the important work they're doing are so appreciated, and are lifting all of our spirits through this challenging time."

- Elaine Baxter-Trahair, Chief Administrative Officer

April 3, 2020

Ganaraska Forest and Local Conservation Areas Closed to the Public

PORT HOPE, ON, April 3, 2020 – The public is reminded that the Ganaraska Forest and all conservation areas in the Ganaraska watershed are closed to visitors until further notice. The Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority (GRCA) are being optimistic that the current situation will be resolved if everyone starts following the advice of the Ministry of Health by staying home; however, for the unforeseeable future, the GRCA are taking precautions to keep everyone safe.

Conservation Areas closed to the public include: Ball's Mills; Ganaraska Millennium; Rice Lake; Cobourg; Garden Hill; Richardson's Lookout; Thurne Parks; Port Hope; and Sylvan Glen.

Also, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, in cooperation with the Municipality of Port Hope and the GRCA, has closed the viewing area at the Ganaraska Fishway (fish ladder).

Closing GRCA properties and trails is not an easy decision for the GRCA to make. The mandate & mission of conservation authorities is the protection of people & property within their watershed. Closing conservation areas and the Ganaraska Forest amid COVID-19 is consistent with that mandate.

People who choose to ignore these closures need to be aware that they are trespassing. By entering the Ganaraska Forest or a conservation area, they are subject to fines. Not only are they breaking the law, they are potentially putting themselves and others at risk.

All GRCA buildings remain closed to the public, including the Ganaraska Forest Centre and all public washrooms. While the Administration Office is closed to the public, staff continue to operate through phone and email communications.

Keeping employees and residents safe is paramount to the GRCA. Your local Conservation Authority is committed to keeping communications open to watershed residents. Please do not hesitate to contact the GRCA if you have any questions. 905.885.8173 /

info@grca.on.ca.

April 3, 2020

Coronavirus: Ontario projects just under 1,600 COVID-19 deaths, 80,000 cases by end of April

Ontario government has revealed projection numbers for the province to be just under 1,600 COVID-19 deaths and 80,000 cases by the end of April, if the current measures in place are upheld.

April 3, 2020

Mayor Carter's video update for April 3

In his Friday, April 3 video message, Oshawa Mayor Dan Carter talks about the cancellation of all City-led special events and festivals, as well as special event permits, through to and including July 1, 2020.

Mayor Carter says the cancellation was a difficult but necessary decision in response to COVID-19 and the recent provincial emergency order to prohibit organized public events and social gatherings of more than five people.

Mayor Carter can be reached at Mayor@oshawa.ca. To view today's video message, visit and subscribe to the City's YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/OshawaCity.

Instagram Live and #OurOshawa

"Live at Five" with Mayor Carter airs weekdays (Monday to Friday) at 5:00 p.m. on the City's Instagram account (@cityofoshawa).

Questions and stories can be shared during Instagram Live or emailed in advance to Mayor@oshawa.ca. Follow the City on Instagram and turn on notifications for Live videos to receive an alert when the Live begins.

Community members are encouraged to share their stories, photos and videos of kindness and support they have seen amid COVID-19 on social media using #OurOshawa. Those looking to spread positive messages even further are encouraged to use #OshawaStrong, #OshawaProud and #DurhamStrong.

Information and City Updates

The City continues to post updates and F.A.Q.s to its dedicated COVID-19 webpage: Oshawa.ca/Coronavirus.

Although our City facilities are temporarily closed to the public, Service Oshawa is available online, over the phone or by email.

Phone: 905-436-3311

Email: service@oshawa.ca

Online Services: service.oshawa.ca

Community members concerned about their health are asked to use the Ontario COVID-19 self-assessment tool to determine if they need to seek care or refer to Lakeridge Health's COVID-19 Assessment Clinic.

April 2, 2020

Updated: Oshawa offering workshops related to the development of the draft 2020-2024 Airport Business Plan

In response to continuing efforts to help slow the spread of COVID-19, please be advised that the City of Oshawa has cancelled the workshops related to the development of the draft 2020-2024 Airport Business Plan. These workshops will be rescheduled for a later date.

City of Oshawa staff are hosting small group workshops with residents, businesses and stakeholders (community members) as a follow up to the Oshawa Executive Airport Community Liaison Committee Town Hall that took place on September 24, 2019.

The workshops will include updates on airport noise, flight training and air quality and are an opportunity for participants to hear answers and further discuss matters related to questions raised at the Town Hall.

To ensure small, focused workshops, community members are required to register in advance by visiting

<https://airportworkshop.eventbrite.ca> and selecting one of the six date options. Registration is limited to one date per community member, with the option to register an additional household member to attend the same workshop.

Workshops will take place in the Committee Room located just off the main (south) entrance of Oshawa City Hall (50 Centre St. S.) with a maximum registration of 20 community members per workshop. The six date and time options are as follows:

Tuesday, April 14; 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.

Thursday, April 16; 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.

Thursday, April 16; 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Tuesday, April 21; 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Thursday, April 23; 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.

Wednesday, April 29; 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Alternatively, community members who are interested but unable to attend any of the six workshop date options or who would prefer to register via phone are asked to contact Corporate Communications (tel: 905-436-5686; email: communications@oshawa.ca).

The feedback and information collected during the small group workshops will be considered in the development of the draft 2020-2024 Airport Business Plan, which is anticipated to be presented to Development Services Committee later this year.

If you have accessibility needs and require alternate formats or other accommodations, please email communications@oshawa.ca or call 905-436-5686 with a minimum of five business days' notice in advance of the workshop you are attending.

Stay informed on the latest news and information about the Oshawa Executive Airport by subscribing to the Airport news feed.

Additionally, follow the Oshawa Executive Airport on Twitter @OshExecAirport. For more information on the Oshawa Executive Airport, visit www.oshawa.ca/airport.

April 2, 2020

Mayor Carter's video update for April 2

In his Thursday, April 2 video message, Oshawa Mayor Dan Carter reminds community members that we all have a part to play to reduce the spread of COVID-19. He urges community members to continue to follow the guidelines of health and government officials – maintain physical distancing, stay home as much as possible, and not gather in groups of more than five people.

Mayor Carter can be reached at Mayor@oshawa.ca. To view today's video message, visit and subscribe to the City's YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/OshawaCity.

Instagram Live and #OurOshawa

"Live at Five" with Mayor Carter airs weekdays (Monday to Friday) at 5:00 p.m. on the City's Instagram account (@cityofoshawa). Questions and stories can be shared during Instagram Live, or emailed in advance to Mayor@oshawa.ca. Follow the City on Instagram and turn on all notifications for Live videos to receive an alert when the Live begins.

Community members are encouraged to share their stories, photos and videos of kindness and support they have seen amid COVID-19 on social media using #OurOshawa. Those looking to spread positive messages even further are encouraged to use #OshawaStrong, #OshawaProud and #DurhamStrong.

Canada hits over 10,000 confirmed COVID-19 cases

According to Public Health, COVID-19 is a "serious health threat" and numbers continue to change on a daily basis.

April 2, 2020

COVID-19 Update 16: City events and event permits cancelled to July, including Canada Day

In response to COVID-19 and the recent provincial emergency order to prohibit organized public events and social gatherings of more than five people, the City of Oshawa is cancelling all City-led special events and festivals, as well as special event permits through to and including July 1, 2020.

"We will definitely miss this year's Peony Festival, Canada Day Celebration and our cherished community partner festivals and events. This decision was difficult to make but was necessary to protect the health and safety of our community members," said Oshawa Mayor Dan Carter.

City-led event cancellations include:

Community Clean Up

Community Fire Safety Day

Peony Festival

Canada Day Celebration

This also includes the cancellation of permits for festivals and events in City facilities and outdoor spaces.

Additionally, permits for City indoor facilities, outdoor sports fields, diamonds, parks and open spaces have been cancelled in April and May.

Furthermore, large sporting events, such as tournaments, that are scheduled for the month of June will also be cancelled.

For booking inquiries that would take place after these cancellation and closure dates, please contact 905-436-3311 or email FBO@oshawa.ca and your inquiry will be directed to a Recreation and Culture Services team member who will be happy to assist you.

Serving our community

Although our City facilities are closed temporarily to the public, City staff continue to serve the community.

Service Oshawa is available Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. by:

Phone: 905-436-3311

Email: service@oshawa.ca

Live chat: www.oshawa.ca/city-hall/Contact-Us

Online services: www.oshawa.ca/online-services

City Updates

The City continues to post updates to its dedicated webpage at www.Oshawa.ca/CoronaVirus. Visit the webpage for the latest updates on City closures, meeting cancellations and changes to services, as well as frequently asked questions and resources.

For updates from the City of Oshawa, subscribe to receive Public Notices via email and connect with us on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and YouTube.

Community members concerned about their health are asked to use the Ontario COVID-19 self-assessment tool to determine if they need to seek care or refer to Lakeridge Health's COVID-19 Assessment Clinic.

April 2, 2020

401 new coronavirus cases in Ontario, total rises to 2,793 cases and 53 deaths

Ontario reported 401 new coronavirus cases on Thursday and 16 additional deaths, bringing the provincial total to 2,793 cases and 53 deaths.

April 2, 2020

Share your #OurOshawa spirit online with the City and community

Community members are invited to share stories of kindness and support they have seen in Oshawa amid COVID-19.

"These are unprecedented times, but we have a choice with how we work through these challenges and support one another," said Oshawa Mayor Dan Carter. "All through our city, community members are finding new ways to put a smile on strangers' faces. These are the acts that embody the great Oshawa spirit, and this is what I want to highlight. Please share them with us!"

Stories, videos and photos can be shared with the City of Oshawa on social media by tagging the City in a post (@oshawacity on Facebook and Twitter, @cityofoshawa on Instagram) and using #OurOshawa. Those without social media can send their positive messages to Mayor Carter directly via email.

City staff may contact the owner of a post to request permission to share on City accounts and others may be referenced by Mayor Carter during his daily "Live at Five" Instagram update. Follow the City on Instagram and turn on all notifications for Live videos to receive an alert when "Live at Five" begins.

Those looking to spread positive messages even further are encouraged to use #OshawaStrong, #OshawaProud and #DurhamStrong. Information and City Updates

The City continues to post updates to its dedicated COVID-19 webpage. For a list of closures, changes to services, more information and F.A.Q.s, visit www.Oshawa.ca/Coronavirus.

Although our City facilities are temporarily closed to the public, City staff continue to serve the community.

Service Oshawa is available Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. by:

Phone: 905-436-3311

Email: service@oshawa.ca

Live Chat: www.oshawa.ca/city-hall/Contact-Us

Online Services: www.oshawa.ca/online-services

Community members concerned about their health are asked to use the Ontario COVID-19 self-assessment tool to determine if they need to seek care or refer to Lakeridge Health's COVID-19 Assessment Clinic.

April 1st, 2020

COVID-19 UPDATE 15:

OSHAWA EXTENDS INDOOR FACILITY CLOSURES, OUTDOOR AMENITIES UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

In response to continuing efforts to help slow the spread of COVID-19 and support physical distancing, the City of Oshawa has extended until further notice the closure to the public of City facilities and outdoor amenities.

"This is a challenging and unprecedented time that is calling for extraordinary measures," said Oshawa Mayor Dan Carter. "Each of us has a role to play to save lives in our community. Stay home when you can; when you are out, practice physical distancing – help us stop the spread."

City facility closures to the public until further notice include:

- City community and recreation facilities
- City Hall
- Consolidated Operations Depot
- Oshawa Animal Services
- Oshawa Fire Halls
- Oshawa Executive Airport Terminal building

Outdoor amenities closed until further notice include:

- Playgrounds
- Sports fields and ball diamonds
- Courts (including Pickle Ball, Tennis and Basketball courts)
- Skate parks
- Park washroom facilities
- Harmony Valley off-leash dog park
- Lakeview Park Beach area
- Community gardens

Community members are welcome to use Oshawa's open park spaces and trails for walkthrough access however, we remind you to adhere to orders from the Ontario Government, including limiting gatherings of more than five people and practicing physical distancing.

The City is also extending the following:

An increase to the four-bag limit to six bags for garbage collection and waiving the requirement for garbage bag tags until further notice. Please note that we encourage residents to continue to practice waste reduction by utilizing their blue boxes and green bins.

Business, taxi and animal licences due to expire at the end of March and April have been extended to May 31 to allow individuals and businesses more time to submit and process these applications.

In the downtown, parking continues to be free until further notice at all metered on-street locations and at all municipal parking lots (with the exception of lots 16 and 19, which are monthly permit parking lots). Time limits for parking still apply.

Serving our community

Although our City facilities are closed temporarily to the public, City staff continue to serve the community.

Service Oshawa is available Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. by:

Phone: 905-436-3311

Email: service@oshawa.ca

Live chat: www.oshawa.ca/city-hall/Contact-Us

Online services: www.oshawa.ca/online-services

City Updates

The City continues to post updates to its dedicated webpage at www.Oshawa.ca/CoronaVirus. Visit the webpage for the latest updates on City closures, meeting cancellations and changes to services, as well as frequently asked questions and resources.

For updates from the City of Oshawa, subscribe to receive Public Notices via email and connect with us on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and YouTube.

Community members concerned about their health are asked to use the Ontario COVID-19 self-assessment tool to determine if they need to seek care or refer to Lakeridge Health's COVID-19 Assessment Clinic.

April 1st, 2020

Statement and Open Letter from Mayor Carter:

We are facing this together. Over the past month, we have witnessed the coronavirus outbreak continuing to spread to communities around the world, affecting our nation, province and community.

Since February 29, Durham Region Health Department has had approximately 100 cases of COVID-19 reported. I am saddened to report that COVID-19 has taken its first lives in our city. On behalf of Oshawa City Council, I express our sincere condolences to family and friends who have lost loved ones to COVID-19.

I would also like to offer my deepest thoughts to those who are fighting COVID-19, have loved ones fighting the illness and our community members in self-isolation. We are thinking of you.

I extend my admiration and thanks to the first responders and health care professionals who are working around the clock for the safety and well-being of our community.

Sadly, the coronavirus has affected all facets of our community – from our local economy, to the way our municipality does business, to our health care system.

There are loved ones who we cannot visit in the hospital or long-term care facilities; family members who are in self-isolation; others who have had non-urgent surgeries or treatments postponed; those who are struggling with fear and anxiety; vulnerable community members in need of support and services.

Please know that my sincere thoughts and sympathies are with you during this difficult time. I am here for you – email me with ideas of how the City can help at mayor@oshawa.ca.

This is also an important reminder of the severity of the situation. I urge you to follow the recommendations of our government and health authorities – relentlessly practise physical distancing, wash your hands regularly and check in virtually on family, friends and neighbours.

We are all in this together. We must each do our part to help save lives.

April 1st, 2020

Mayor Carter's video update for April 1

In his Wednesday, April 1 video message, Oshawa Mayor Dan Carter extends his sympathies to community members who have lost loved ones to the coronavirus as well as those with friends and family members in the hospital or who are home in isolation, struggling with fear and anxiety or in need of support and services.

To view today's video message from Mayor Carter, visit and subscribe to the City's YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/OshawaCity.

Instagram Live and #OurOshawa

"Live at Five" with Mayor Carter airs weekdays (Monday to Friday) at 5:00 p.m. on the City's Instagram account (@cityofoshawa).

Questions and stories can be shared during the Live, or emailed in advance to Mayor@oshawa.ca. Follow the City on Instagram now and turn on all notifications for Live videos to receive an alert when the Live begins.

Community members are also invited to share their stories and photos illustrating the spirit of Oshawa and acts of kindness amid COVID-19 on social media using #OurOshawa.

Information and City Updates

The City continues to post updates to its dedicated Coronavirus webpage. For a list of closures, changes to services, more information and F.A.Q.s, visit www.Oshawa.ca/Coronavirus.

Although our City facilities are temporarily closed to the public, City staff continue to serve the community.

Service Oshawa is available by:

Phone: 905-436-3311

Email: service@oshawa.ca

Live Chat: www.oshawa.ca/city-hall/Contact-Us

Online Services: www.oshawa.ca/online-services

April 1st, 2020

Ontario reports 426 new coronavirus cases, total at 2,392 and 37 deaths

Ontario has reported 426 new coronavirus cases on Wednesday, bringing the provincial total to 2,392.

The province has also announced four more deaths for a total of 37 related to COVID-19.

The new COVID-19 cases mark the most significant increase the province has seen in a single-day.

The number of resolved cases has increased to 689.

Ontario health workers have tested 57,874 people for the virus so far. From Tuesday, 6,245 people were tested in one day which is double the amount of people tested we saw on Monday. The province said it has been working through a backlog of tests.

There are 3,135 cases currently under investigation and awaiting test results, which is down from Tuesday (where 4,280 people were under investigation).

According to Ontario's website, males and females diagnosed with COVID-19 is evenly split in half.

Breakdown of ages:

19 and under: 2.3% of cases.

20-39: 30.3% of cases.

40-59: 35.5% of cases.

60-79: 25.4% of cases

80 and over: 6.4% of cases.

April 1st, 2020

Ontario Joins Forces with the Private Sector to Fight COVID-19

New \$50 million Ontario Together Fund will support the development of essential equipment and supplies

TORONTO ? To stop the spread of COVID-19 and keep people safe, the Ontario government is launching a new \$50 million Ontario Together Fund to help businesses provide innovative solutions or retool their operations in order to manufacture essential medical supplies and equipment, including gowns, coveralls, masks, face shields, testing equipment and ventilators. This new Fund will support the development of proposals submitted by businesses and individuals through the Ontario Together web portal.

The announcement was made today by Premier Doug Ford, Vic Fedeli, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade, and Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health.

"Ontario has an army of innovators, entrepreneurs, and the hardest-working people in the world ready to roll up their sleeves, support our frontline healthcare workers, and beat this virus," said Premier Ford. "This mass mobilization of government, business, communities and private citizens to slow the spread of COVID-19 and keep people safe and healthy represents one of the largest and most ambitious efforts undertaken by Ontario in generations."

In addition, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade have worked closely with businesses across Ontario and the Automotive Parts Manufacturers' Association to ramp up production of ventilators to meet the need in Ontario and other parts of Canada. The government has recently placed an order with O-Two Medical Technologies who, with the support of Ontario's world-class manufacturing sector, will produce 10,000 ventilator units.

"Our government is taking extraordinary measures to support businesses and organizations that are responding to COVID-19," said Vic Fedeli, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade. "It's inspiring to see the Ontario business community respond to the call to action. Through the Ontario Together web portal and the Ontario Together Fund, we are making sure that companies have the resources and support they need to supply emergency products and innovative solutions quickly and efficiently to help address this challenging time together."

The government will be looking for the most viable, innovative proposals that can quickly provide critical goods and services and the greatest benefit to the people of Ontario. The government is providing one-time funding of \$50 million in 2020-21 during the COVID-19 outbreak. It is time-limited and will be available to companies and organizations across the province.

"The fight against COVID-19 presents significant challenges for small businesses, but their strength and ingenuity are key to weathering this storm," said Prabmeet Sarkaria, Associate Minister of Small Business and Red Tape Reduction. "The Ontario Action Plan gives families and small businesses the supports they need. Ontario Together will link the resources of government with the capacity and #OntarioSpirit of our small businesses ? to manufacture the resources Ontario needs."

"Only by working together and harnessing the full potential of Ontario's innovators will we be able to confront the growing challenge of COVID-19," said Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health. "The Ontario Together Fund will help enable our business community to provide the supplies and equipment our frontline heroes need as they continue to keep Ontarians safe."

"O-Two Medical Technologies is eager to be part of the global effort to help save lives. Our e700 ventilator has a proven track record and, together with our partners and the provincial government, we will deliver this critical, life-saving equipment to the people of Ontario."

— Kim Lassaline, Chief Executive Officer, O-Two Medical Technologies Inc.

"Ontario has acted quickly to save lives, this is what matters most today. The manufacturing expertise of automotive suppliers Linamar, Magna, Martinrea and ABC Technologies will be critical in making this plan achievable."

— Flavio Volpe, President, Automotive Parts Manufacturers' Association

April 1st, 2020

Bruce Power commits 600,000 pieces of personal protective equipment to Province of Ontario for fight against COVID-19

Bruce Power announced this morning it will be providing 600,000 pieces of personal protective equipment to support the province's fight against COVID-19, ensuring that front-line workers have the protection they need as the heroes supporting our families and communities.

The company's President and CEO, Mike Rencheck, made the announcement during a conversation with Ontario Premier Doug Ford on 560 CFOS AM's Open Line radio show with Dave Carr. Bruce Power's commitment includes masks, gloves, gowns for safety protection. "I thank Premier Ford and our local MPPs, Bill Walker and Lisa Thompson, for their leadership. I also want to thank our public health and front-line care workers and all the people who keep Ontario moving," said Rencheck. "We look forward to using our logistics and supply chain to get this equipment to the front lines as soon as possible through local and provincial organizations, our counties in southwestern Ontario, and the Ministry of Health.

"You can count on the team at Bruce Power to do its part by keeping the lights on, generating some of the lowest cost power in the province, and maintain global isotope production for medical equipment sterilization during this time."

Premier Ford expressed his gratitude to Rencheck and Bruce Power for the commitment and for "providing power to millions of people in Ontario".

"I want to thank all of Ontario's power workers, including the 4,000 hard-working employees at Bruce Power, who are keeping the lights on for Ontario families and businesses," said the Premier. "I also want to thank Bruce Power for doing its part to fight COVID-19 by donating 600,000 piece of PPE and producing the isotopes needed to sterilize medical equipment for our front-line workers. By working together, we can beat this virus and keep all Ontarians safe and healthy."

Greg Rickford, the Minister of Energy, Northern Development and Mines, and Minister of Indigenous Affairs, offered his gratitude to Bruce Power for its commitment to the fight against the coronavirus.

"Ontario is fortunate to have world-class electricity generators who are not only keeping the lights on, but are going above and beyond to support our province during the COVID-19 pandemic," said Rickford. "Thank you to Bruce Power for this generous donation to Ontario's front-line health care workers. This is the Ontario Spirit at its very core."

Walker, who is also the Associate Minister of Energy for the province, and a former Bruce Power employee, also expressed his appreciation for today's announcement.

“A heartfelt thank you to Bruce Power for their most generous commitment to support those on the front line in the fight against COVID-19,” said Walker. “Along with continuing to produce clean, safe, and reliable electricity and much-needed medical isotopes, Bruce Power is showing true Ontario Spirit with this incredible donation.”

March 31, 2020

COVID-19 Update 13: Oshawa cancels Standing Committee, Advisory Committee meetings and public consultations in April

In response to continuing efforts to help slow the spread of COVID-19, the City of Oshawa has cancelled for the month of April its Standing Committee and Advisory Committee meetings, as well as workshops related to the development of the draft 2020-2024 Airport Business Plan.

“The City of Oshawa continues to implement proactive measures for the wellbeing of our community and to support the directions and recommendations of our regional, provincial and federal governments. To overcome this pandemic, we must all work together,” said Oshawa Mayor Dan Carter.

Please be advised that the following meetings have been cancelled:

- April 6, 2020 – 9:30 a.m. – Corporate Services Committee Meeting
- April 6, 2020 – 1:30 p.m. – Development Services Committee Meeting
- April 6, 2020 – 6:30 p.m. – Planning Act Public Meeting
- April 7, 2020 – 6:30 p.m. – Oshawa Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting
- April 20, 2020 – 9:30 a.m. – Community Services Committee Meeting
- April 20, 2020 – 1:30 p.m. – Finance Committee Meeting
- April 21, 2020 – 6:30 p.m. – Oshawa Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting
- April 22, 2020 – 6:00 p.m. – Committee of Adjustment Meeting
- April 23, 2020 – 6:30 p.m. – Heritage Oshawa Meeting
- April 28, 2020 – 6:30 p.m. – Oshawa Animal Care Advisory Committee Meeting

Additionally, the following workshops related to the development of the draft 2020-2024 Airport Business Plan have been cancelled and will be rescheduled at a later date:

- Tuesday, April 14; 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.
- Thursday, April 16; 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.
- Thursday, April 16; 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, April 21; 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.
- Thursday, April 23; 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, April 29; 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Serving our community

Although our City facilities are closed temporarily to the public, City staff continue to serve the community.

Service Oshawa is available Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. by:

Phone: 905-436-3311

Email: service@oshawa.ca

Live chat: www.oshawa.ca/city-hall/Contact-Us

Online services: www.oshawa.ca/online-services

City Updates

The City continues to post updates to its dedicated webpage at www.Oshawa.ca/CoronaVirus. Visit the webpage for the latest updates on City closures, meeting cancellations and changes to services, as well as frequently asked questions and resources.

For updates from the City of Oshawa, subscribe to receive Public Notices via email and connect with us on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and YouTube.

Community members concerned about their health are asked to use the Ontario COVID-19 self-assessment tool to determine if they need to seek care or refer to Lakeridge Health's COVID-19 Assessment Clinic.

March 30, 2020

Updated: COVID-19 Update 14: Drive-thru food donation wraps up at Delpark Homes Centre

Revised details for Salvation Army Oshawa donations.

Thank you to community members who donated non-perishable food items during last week's food donation "drive-thru" at the Delpark Homes Centre parking lot

The supervised "drive-thru" benefitted Feed the Need in Durham and ran from Tuesday, March 24 to Friday, March 27. The event was in partnership with The Regional Municipality of Durham, City of Oshawa, Town of Ajax and Municipality of Clarington, with additional drive-thru locations in Bowmanville and Ajax. Feed the Need in Durham has reported that between the three locations, 2314 pounds of food was raised, equating to 1928 meals!

Residents who missed the drive-thru can still donate to Feed the Need in Durham.

Make an online monetary donation to support the bulk purchase of non-perishable food items.

Drop off non-perishable food items at Feed the Need in Durham headquarters. A drive by donation box will be available outside the Feed the Need in Durham headquarters located at 371 Marwood Drive in Oshawa from Tuesday, March 31 to Thursday, April 2 between 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

Additional organizations that are in need of the community's support include:

Salvation Army Oshawa is accepting food and donations at its Emergency Disaster Services vehicle or via the front blue door of the building (please knock) at 45 King St. E., Monday through Friday between 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. Monetary donations can be made online at www.oshawa-temple.org.

Simcoe Hall Settlement House is accepting non-perishable food items at 387 Simcoe St. S. in Oshawa. To learn more, including how to make monetary donations, visit <https://simcoehall.com/cause/donate>.

Back Door Mission for the Relief of Poverty is accepting food donations. Community members can drop off food donations at 66 Simcoe St. S., behind the church. Community members can also make monetary donations online.

Serving our community

Although our City facilities are closed temporarily to the public, City staff continue to serve the community.

Service Oshawa is available Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. by:

Phone: 905-436-3311

Email: service@oshawa.ca
Live chat: www.oshawa.ca/city-hall/Contact-Us
Online services: www.oshawa.ca/online-services

City Updates

The City continues to post updates to its dedicated webpage at www.Oshawa.ca/CoronaVirus. Visit the webpage for the latest updates on City closures, meeting cancellations and changes to services, as well as frequently asked questions and resources.

For updates from the City of Oshawa, subscribe to receive Public Notices via email and connect with us on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and YouTube.

Community members concerned about their health are asked to use the Ontario COVID-19 self-assessment tool to determine if they need to seek care or refer to Lakeridge Health's COVID-19 Assessment Clinic.

Thank you to community members who donated non-perishable food items during last week's food donation "drive-thru" at the Delpark Homes Centre parking lot.

The supervised "drive-thru" benefitted Feed the Need in Durham and ran from Tuesday, March 24 to Friday, March 27. The event was in partnership with The Regional Municipality of Durham, City of Oshawa, Town of Ajax and Municipality of Clarington, with additional drive-thru locations in Bowmanville and Ajax. Feed the Need in Durham has reported that between the three locations, 2314 pounds of food was raised, equating to 1928 meals!

Residents who missed the drive-thru can still donate to Feed the Need in Durham.

- Make an online monetary donation to support the bulk purchase of non-perishable food items.
- Drop off non-perishable food items at Feed the Need in Durham headquarters. A drive by donation box will be available outside the Feed the Need in Durham headquarters located at 371 Marwood Drive in Oshawa from Tuesday, March 31 to Thursday, April 2 between 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

Additional organizations that are in need of the community's support include:

- Salvation Army Oshawa is accepting food and donations at its Thrift Store's rear door at 45 King St. E. Monetary donations can be made online at www.oshawa-temple.org.

- Simcoe Hall Settlement House is accepting non-perishable food items at 387 Simcoe St. S. in Oshawa. To learn more, including how to make monetary donations, visit <https://simcoehall.com/cause/donate>.

- Back Door Mission for the Relief of Poverty is accepting food donations. Community members can drop off food donations at 66 Simcoe St. S., behind the church. Community members can also make monetary donations online.

Serving our community

Although our City facilities are closed temporarily to the public, City staff continue to serve the community.

Service Oshawa is available Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. by:

Phone: 905-436-3311

Email: service@oshawa.ca

Live chat: www.oshawa.ca/city-hall/Contact-Us

Online services: www.oshawa.ca/online-services

City Updates

The City continues to post updates to its dedicated webpage at www.Oshawa.ca/CoronaVirus. Visit the webpage for the latest updates on City closures, meeting cancellations and changes to services, as well as frequently asked questions and resources.

For updates from the City of Oshawa, subscribe to receive Public Notices via email and connect with us on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and YouTube.

Community members concerned about their health are asked to use the Ontario COVID-19 self-assessment tool to determine if they need to seek care or refer to Lakeridge Health's COVID-19 Assessment Clinic.

March 30, 2020

Durham Region Notice: Durham Region continues to provide essential waste management services to residents

The Region of Durham, Works Department, continues to ensure that services that have been identified as essential by the Province of Ontario, including waste management and household hazardous waste collection, will be completed safely and efficiently. With this in mind, our Regionally-operated Waste Management Facilities (WMF) and Household Hazardous Waste Depots will remain operational for as long as possible.

Please note, the Household Hazardous Waste Depot located in Pickering and privately operated by Miller Waste is closed.

To ensure we can continue operating, while ensuring the health and safety of both our employees and clients, we've implemented the following measures:

As of March 18, the WMFs have stopped accepting cash payments.

Staff have discontinued issuing inbound customers with paper tickets for specialty items.

Staff are practicing physical distancing and are advising clients to do the same.

As always, staff continue to wear personal protective equipment (PPE).

To limit on-site activity, the WMFs will be queueing cars and only allowing a small number of cars on-site at a time as necessary.

The WMFs have been receiving daily cleaning and disinfecting, and disinfectant is used at high volume touch and common areas, with a special focus on the debit/credit machines.

The WMFs have supplies to ensure cleanliness, including hand sanitizer and cleaning products.

The WMFs are limiting the number of people on-site at one time.

The Oshawa WMF also temporarily closed the Paint Exchange portion of the facility, as it is a high-volume area that doesn't allow for physical distancing.

The WMFs have stopped providing dog treats and lollipops to customers with pets and children (a practice at some WMFs).

The WMFs are following all Health and Safety protocols and staff are provided daily Health and Safety updates, especially as it pertains to personal safety and handwashing.

The WMFs have increased the distance of the Hazardous waste drop-off table between clients and staff.

The WMFs have also temporarily closed the donation bin and are not accepting items for reuse at this time.

Currently, the Regional WMFs are open Tuesday to Saturday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Clarington Household Hazardous Waste Depot, located in Bowmanville, also remains open from Wednesday to Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For more information about the Regional WMFs, including locations and accepted materials, visit durham.ca/WMF.

"Our dedicated staff continue to deliver essential services that impact the everyday lives of the residents and businesses in the Region.

While the situation continues to change on a daily basis, our residents can rely on us to provide these services. The health and safety of our staff and our waste management facility clients is our top priority, and the practices we've implemented will help us achieve this goal."

Susan Siopis, Commissioner of Works, Region of Durham

March 30, 2020

DRPS Protocols Regarding COVID-19

The DRPS has adjusted its response protocol for gatherings of more than five people, as required under the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act.

Citizens can report a gathering of more than 5 people 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. 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.

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.

Reports regarding price gouging must go directly to the Province of Ontario. File a complaint at 1-800-889-9768 between 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday, or file a report online.

March 30, 2020

Durham Region Notice: Emergency child care offered to health care and frontline workers in Durham Region

Under the directive of the Provincial Government, emergency child care will now be offered to eligible healthcare and frontline workers in Durham Region.

The Regional Municipality of Durham is working with local licensed childcare operators to offer emergency child care, free of charge to parents. These child care centres will be exempt to the order issued by the Provincial Government to close all licensed centres pursuant to the state of emergency.

The Region of Durham's Social Services Department, Children's Services Division has been working closely with the Durham Region Health Department, Provincial Government and other provincial partners to ensure that the health and safety of children, parents, and staff are at the forefront of service delivery. Stringent policies and procedures will be mandated in all emergency child care centres to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19. This will include screening, surveillance, enhanced sanitization practices, and protocols if a child or staff have symptoms.

Through partnerships with licensed child care centres and licensed home child care agencies, the Region will be able to provide 24-hour care for children, from birth to 12 years of age.

An online survey has been launched to help families identify if they are eligible for emergency child care, and to easily apply.

For more information, please visit durham.ca.

"We are proud to help support frontline workers by offering emergency child care during the COVID-19 pandemic. Our Registered Early Childhood Educators are stepping up to help give these essential workers piece of mind that their children are being cared for by professionals in a welcoming environment."

- Stella Danos-Papaconstantinou, Commissioner of Social Services

March 31, 2020

Ontario Extends Emergency Declaration to Stop the Spread of COVID-19

All Outdoor Recreational Amenities across Province Now Closed

TORONTO — In an effort to stop the spread of COVID-19 and keep people home, the Government of Ontario has extended the Declaration of Emergency and associated emergency measures, including the closure of non-essential workplaces and restrictions on social gatherings. In addition, Ontario is issuing a new emergency order under the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act to close all outdoor recreational amenities, such as sports fields and playgrounds, effective immediately. These actions are based on the advice of the Chief Medical Officer of Health.

"I made a commitment to be open and upfront about what we need to do as a province to beat this virus," said Premier Ford. "Based on the best medical advice available, we are taking further steps today to protect the health and safety of all Ontarians by closing outdoor recreational amenities, like sports fields and playgrounds, and extending our emergency orders to save lives. We all need to work together and do our part to stop COVID-19 by staying home, practising physical distancing, and avoiding social gatherings."

This new order would close all communal or shared, public or private, outdoor recreational amenities everywhere in Ontario, including but not limited to playgrounds, sports fields, basketball and tennis courts, off-leash dog parks, beaches, skateboard and BMX parks, picnic areas, outdoor community gardens, park shelters, outdoor exercise equipment, condo parks and gardens, and other outdoor recreational amenities. Green spaces in parks, trails, ravines and conservation areas that aren't otherwise closed would remain open for walkthrough access, but individuals must maintain the safe physical distance of at least two metres apart from others. Ontario's provincial parks and conservation reserves remain closed.

"We are acting on the best advice of our Chief Medical Officer of Health and other leading public health officials across the province" said Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health. "We will continue to take decisive action to stop the spread of COVID-19 and protect Ontarians' health and wellbeing."

"The health and well-being of Ontarians is a top priority of our government as we navigate through the COVID-19 health crisis. I know our municipal partners are already taking action locally to protect their residents," said Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. "This order makes the rules around closing shared outdoor recreational amenities consistent across the province."

To ensure the province is able to continue its extensive efforts to contain the spread of COVID-19, Ontario will also extend the March 17, 2020 declaration of emergency and subsequent emergency orders, regulations and amendments issued under s.7.0.1 and 7.0.2(4) of the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act.

The following declaration and orders have been extended and will be in effect until April 13, 2020:

- Declaration of a provincial emergency
- Closure of public places and establishments with exemption for emergency child care for health care and frontline essential service workers
- Prohibiting events and gatherings of more than five people
- Enforcement of emergency orders
- Work deployment for health service providers
- Work deployment for long-term care homes
- Electronic service of documents
- Electricity pricing
- Drinking water and sewage
- Closure of non-essential workplaces
- Traffic management
- Prohibiting unconscionable pricing for necessary goods
- Streamlining requirements for long-term care homes

QUICK FACTS

Ontarians should stay home except for essential reasons, and to limit the number of these essential trips. Essential reasons include accessing health care services and medication, grocery shopping, walking pets when required and supporting vulnerable community members to meet the above needs. It is strongly recommended that people over 70 years old or who have compromised immune systems and/or underlying medical conditions self-isolate and get help with essential errands.

Ontarians must strictly practice physical distancing to reduce their exposure to other people and keep at least two metres away from people outside of their household.

On March 25, 2020, the federal government announced an Emergency Order under the Quarantine Act that requires any person entering Canada by air, sea or land to self-isolate for 14 days whether or not they have symptoms of COVID-19. They must not go to work, grocery stores or on walks. They should monitor for symptoms of COVID-19 for 14 days and contact their primary care providers or Telehealth Ontario (1-866-797-0000) if they experience symptoms.

Take everyday steps to reduce exposure to COVID-19 and protect your health : wash your hands often with soap and water or alcohol-based hand sanitizer; sneeze and cough into your sleeve; avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth; avoid contact with people who are sick; stay home if you are sick.

March 31, 2020

Province Supports Postsecondary Students During COVID-19

Ontario Enabling Students to Complete the Academic Year, Offering Loan Payment Deferrals and Financial Support for Institutions
TORONTO — The government of Ontario is easing the financial burden on students and making sure they can complete their studies during the COVID-19 outbreak by temporarily deferring payments for Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP) loans and making online learning supports, including year-end exams, available to postsecondary institutions.

"During this unprecedented period, it is important to help students and current borrowers, so students can continue with their studies and borrowers do not have to worry about making loan payments," said Premier Ford. "Our government is doing everything it can to ensure our college and university students can take their exams and complete their school year while studying remotely."

To support borrowers during this difficult period, loan repayments will be subject to a six-month interest-free moratorium until September 30, 2020. This means that during this time, borrowers will not be required to make any loan payments and interest will not accrue on their OSAP loans. Borrowers can still make one-time payments via their online account or online banking if they want to repay their loans faster. Payments during this period will go entirely towards their loan principal.

"Students and their families make great sacrifices to attend postsecondary education and it is incumbent on us to do everything we can to ensure this academic year is not put in jeopardy," said Minister Romano. "I want to thank our postsecondary institutions for their leadership in adopting alternative ways for students to study and take exams, while ensuring they practice physical distancing and stay safe."

To ensure students can successfully complete the academic year, Ontario has finalized an agreement with eCampusOntario to make digital learning supports available to postsecondary institutions. These interim digital learning supports, available in both French and English, will provide publicly-assisted colleges and universities with the technology they need to conduct year-end assessments, while preserving student privacy and the integrity of academic assessment.

Ontario will work with other partners who may be interested in offering digital learning, such as Indigenous Institutes and private career colleges. Supports will be accessible on an as-needed basis and limited to those courses and programs where formal exams are required.

The province is also distributing \$25 million in additional funding to publicly-assisted colleges, universities and Indigenous Institutes to help address each institution's most pressing needs in the wake of the COVID-19 outbreak such as deep cleaning, purchasing medical supplies or offering mental health supports.

March 31, 2020

Prime Minister announces new partnerships with Canadian industries to fight COVID-19

Canadian businesses and manufacturers are stepping up to fight the COVID-19 pandemic. The Government of Canada is working with these companies to ensure our health care workers have the tools they need to care for Canadians across the country.

The Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, today announced progress under Canada's Plan to Mobilize Industry to fight COVID-19, which increases Canada's ability to respond to the outbreak with necessary medical equipment and supplies.

The Government of Canada is investing \$2 billion to support diagnostic testing and to purchase ventilators and protective personal equipment, including for bulk purchases with provinces and territories. Personal protective equipment includes things like more masks and face shields, gowns, and hand sanitizer.

On March 20, 2020, the Government of Canada called on Canadian businesses and manufacturers to help deliver critical health supplies. Since then, the government has spoken directly with almost 3,000 Canadian companies that have offered their expertise and capacity to meet the country's need for personal protective equipment and critical health supplies.

The Government of Canada has signed new procurement agreements with Canadian companies Thornhill Medical, Medicom, and Spartan Bioscience to purchase and boost capacity to manufacture equipment and supplies including portable ventilators, surgical masks, and rapid testing kits. The government has ordered millions of supplies to ease the pressure on health care facilities. It has also signed letters of intent with five companies – Precision Biomonitoring, Fluid Energy Group Ltd., Irving Oil, Calko Group, and Stanfield's – to produce additional test kits, hand sanitizer, and protective apparel including masks and gowns.

The government welcomes the cooperation of other companies and industries that have answered the call to action and offered their support in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. This includes efforts from companies to re-tool their facilities and double their production capacity, to collect and donate existing supplies and equipment, and to combine resources to manufacture needed supplies more quickly. Companies like Magna, General Motors, Toyota Motor Manufacturing Canada, Ford, Linamar, Shell, Suncor, Alibaba Group, and The Home Depot have helped Canada's health care professionals by donating personal protective and safety equipment and sanitizing supplies.

In addition, \$50 million has been made available in funding for members of the Next Generation Manufacturing Supercluster to develop and scale-up new, in-demand technologies, equipment, and medical products. This includes technologies and products to test and treat Canadians, such as novel virus detection tests, vaccines, therapeutics, and symptom management treatments. It also includes medical equipment to care for Canadians, such as ventilators, peripherals, personal protective equipment, and cleaning and sterilization chemicals and equipment.

These measures are part of the larger strategy the Government of Canada is implementing to protect Canadians and prevent the spread of the virus. Collaboration with Canadian manufacturing and innovation is an important part of this strategy, which will ultimately result in better health and safety for Canadians, as well as a more resilient health care system.

"Canadian companies are answering the call to provide critical support to our health care workers, who are on the front lines of our country's fight against COVID-19. As the situation continues to evolve, the Government of Canada will be there to work with Canadian industry to find solutions that will support our medical professionals and protect the health and safety of all Canadians."

—The Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada

"Our government is mobilizing its resources to confront COVID-19, and Canadian industry is doing their part. We are in this together. From researchers to business there is a coordinated effort to protect the health and safety of Canadians. Today's announcement will help strengthen our country's response to COVID-19, while reinforcing our preparedness in responding to future health challenges."

—The Hon. Navdeep Bains, Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry

"We are taking an aggressive, proactive procurement approach to secure life-saving equipment and supplies. Industry has answered the call and we have successfully tapped into both existing and new supply sources. As a result, we have placed orders for millions of essential supplies in the fight against COVID-19."

—The Hon. Anita Anand, Minister of Public Services and Procurement

Quick Facts

The Government of Canada will provide additional funding of \$1.5 billion over two years, starting in 2019-20, to the Public Health Agency of Canada to support diagnostic testing and the urgent purchase of personal protective equipment, ventilators, and supplies needed to respond to COVID-19. The Government will also provide the Public Health Agency of Canada with a provision of \$500 million in 2020-21.

The Government of Canada launched a call to action under Canada's Plan to Mobilize Industry to fight COVID-19, and offers have been received from companies with products:

ready to be purchased or ordered, that can be supported through procurement agreements with the Government of Canada under development, but not yet authorized, for which the Government of Canada can provide help with the expedited regulatory process through Health Canada

needing technical or financial assistance to get into market, and which can be supported by the Government of Canada through the Strategic Innovation Fund, the National Research Council of Canada's Industrial Research Assistance Program, Export Development Canada, and the Business Development Bank of Canada

The Strategic Innovation Fund will allow for rapid support to Canadian companies that are working on large-scale and later-stage promising research and development projects aimed at providing medical countermeasures to COVID-19, including vaccines and critical medical supplies.

The National Research Council of Canada is partnering with Innovative Solutions Canada to launch challenges seeking near-to-market solutions from Canadian small and medium-sized businesses that need financial support to refine and sell their products or solution to meet a COVID-19-related need.

The National Research Council of Canada is organizing a COVID-19 Pandemic Response Challenge Program, composed of teams of government, academic, and private sector partners to specific COVID-19 gaps and challenges identified by Canadian health experts. The Challenge Program is structured around three main research themes: rapid detection and diagnosis, therapeutics and vaccine development, and digital health.

On March 11, 2020, the Government of Canada announced a more than \$1 billion package to help minimize the health, economic, and social impacts of the COVID-19 outbreak, which includes \$50 million to help ensure adequate supplies of personal protective equipment for provinces and territories, as well as to address federal needs.

March 30, 2020

Emergency child care offered to health care and frontline workers in Durham Region

Whitby, Ontario – Under the directive of the Provincial Government, emergency child care will now be offered to eligible healthcare and front-line workers in Durham Region.

The Regional Municipality of Durham is working with local licensed childcare operators to offer emergency child care, free of charge to parents. These child care centres will be exempt to the order issued by the Provincial Government to close all licensed centres pursuant to the state of emergency.

The Region of Durham's Social Services Department, Children's Services Division has been working closely with the Durham Region Health Department, Provincial Government and other provincial partners to ensure that the health and safety of children, parents, and staff are at the forefront of service delivery. Stringent policies and procedures will be mandated in all emergency child care centres to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19. This will include screening, surveillance, enhanced sanitization practices, and protocols if a child or staff have symptoms.

Through partnerships with licensed child care centres and licensed home child care agencies, the Region will be able to provide 24-hour care for children, from birth to 12 years of age.

An online survey has been launched to help families identify if they are eligible for emergency child care, and to easily apply.

For more information, please visit durham.ca.

"We are proud to help support frontline workers by offering emergency child care during the COVID-19 pandemic. Our Registered Early Childhood Educators are stepping up to help give these essential workers piece of mind that their children are being cared for by professionals in a welcoming environment."

- Stella Danos-Papaconstantinou, Commissioner of Social Services

March 30, 2020

Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau provided additional details on the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy.

If a business has lost 30% of its revenue, it will be eligible for this subsidy. The number of employees does not impact eligibility, and non-profit organizations and charities are included, as well as businesses of all sizes.

The federal government will cover up to 75 per cent of salary on the first \$58,700 and will be backdated to Mar. 15. That totals up to \$847 per week.

"We are trusting you to do the right thing," Trudeau said. "If you have the means to pay the remaining 25 per cent...please do so."

The prime minister added that "there will be serious consequences" for those who try to take advantage of the system

Wage subsidies:

The federal government will cover 75% of salaries for workers of qualifying small businesses affected by COVID-19, an increase from the 10% announced previously. The subsidy, which will be backdated to March 15, gives companies who have asked employees to stop or reduce working help in continuing to pay staff.

Loans:

The government has launched the Canada Emergency Business Account, which will involve banks soon providing government-guaranteed loans of up to \$40,000 for small businesses. Those loans will be interest-free for the first year and up to \$10,000 could be waived for repayment.

The government will also make another \$12.5 billion in loans available through Export Development Canada and the Business Development Bank of Canada to help small- and medium-sized businesses with operational cashflow requirements.

Taxes:

GST and HST payments will be deferred as well as duties and taxes owed on imports until June. These moves are equivalent with giving \$30 billion in interest-free loans to businesses, Trudeau said. This will allow companies to keep the money they would have sent to the government and use it instead for immediate needs.

March 30, 2020

Ontario reports 351 new coronavirus cases, total cases now at 1,706

Ontario reported 351 new cases of novel coronavirus on Monday, marking the biggest single-day increase in cases since the pandemic began.

The death toll remained at 23.

Four-hundred-and-thirty-one cases are resolved, meaning the total cumulative case total in Ontario stands at 1,706.

The province has been working through a backlog of cases recently, though on Monday, health officials changed the way it reports the current status of cases. It no longer lists how many cases are awaiting test results.

The Ford government said Monday that it will now expand on the information it provides daily on the outbreak numbers in the province.

It launched a new web page which provides a more "relevant summary of data" from provincial health officials, according to a statement from the Ford government.

"Ontario has been diligently monitoring and taking decisive action to stop the spread of COVID-19 and keep Ontarians informed," said Christine Elliott, Ontario Minister of Health.

"We will continue to work with Public Health Ontario, public health units and the health sector to have and report on the best possible data to help us understand the scope of the COVID-19 outbreak in our province and inform our collective response to keep all Ontarians safe and healthy."

The total numbers of people tested is 48,461 in the province.

Premier Doug Ford also announced that his government had passed an emergency order aimed at targeting price gougers.

Meanwhile, the provincial government has implemented numerous actions in order to curb the spread of the virus, including the closing of all businesses deemed non-essential, as well as a ban on social gatherings of more than five people.

March 30, 2020

Statement from the Chief Medical Officer of Health

TORONTO — Dr. David Williams, Chief Medical Officer of Health, issued the following statement in response to COVID-19:

"The Government of Ontario continues to take decisive action to respond to the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) to help contain its spread and to protect the public. This has involved some unprecedented measures, and I know many of you continue to undertake great efforts to protect your families, friends, neighbours, clients and patients, and communities.

However, we must do more.

Everyone has a role to play in reducing the risk of spreading COVID-19 - there is no option for anyone to opt out.

The lives of many Ontarians, especially our community's most vulnerable citizens, is in your hands and will depend on your actions over the coming days and weeks.

I strongly recommend you and other members of your household stay home except for essential reasons, such as to:

- Access health care services;
- Shop for groceries;
- Pick-up medication at the pharmacy;
- Walk pets when required; and
- Support vulnerable community members with meeting the above needs.

To the fullest extent possible, you should also limit the number of these essential trips. However, when you are out in public you must adhere to physical distancing by reducing your exposure to other people outside of your household by keeping two metres from other people.

Given the greater risk of severe outcomes to Ontarians who are elderly, I am also strongly recommending that individuals over 70 years of age self-isolate. This means only leaving home or seeing other people for essential reasons. Where possible, you should seek services over the phone or internet or ask for help from friends, family or neighbours with essential errands. This also applies to individuals who have compromised immune systems and/or underlying medical conditions.

As we have been saying repeatedly, it is critically important to wash your hands regularly (or use alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available), practice proper cough and sneeze etiquette, and avoid direct contact when greeting people.

In addition, as previously communicated and mandated by the federal government, all individuals who are returning from travel outside of Canada must self-isolate for 14 days when they return. You must not go to work, grocery stores or on walks. You should also monitor yourself for symptoms of COVID-19 for 14 days after returning and contact your primary care provider or Telehealth Ontario (1-866-797-0000) if you experience symptoms of COVID-19.

I also ask that family members, individuals, neighbours, and services in our communities look at how they can support others by taking these necessary actions. This would allow seniors, other at-risk populations, and returning travellers to remain at home.

The government is continuing to support all of the dedicated health care providers and front-line workers who are focused on keeping Ontarians healthy and safe.

We need to remember that we all have an obligation to reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19 to our families, friends, neighbours, and communities. Please do not underestimate the impact that your actions will have in helping to stop the spread of this virus.

For more information on COVID-19, including the current status of the outbreak, the online self-assessment tool to help determine how to seek further care, how Ontario is responding, and how to self isolate, please visit Ontario's COVID-19 web page.

Thank you for your ongoing action and commitment."

March 30, 2020

Advisory from Statistics Canada

This note is to inform you of the publication of two new components of Statistics Canada's Daily release for Monday, March 30, 2020. The first is new information relative to COVID-19. In collaboration with the Public Health Agency of Canada, Statistics Canada will release in our Daily on March 30 preliminary data tables related to confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Canada. This data will be available to Canadians and researchers.

The second, is a message to Canadians entitled, "Our Commitment to Serve Canadians during the COVID19 outbreak." from Anil Arora, Chief Statistician of Canada.

The tables and the Chief Statistician's address will be published in The Daily on [statcan.gc.ca \(https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/dai-quo/index-eng.htm?HPA=1\)](https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/dai-quo/index-eng.htm?HPA=1) at 8:30 a.m. eastern time March 30.

March 30, 2020

Canadian Paralympic Committee statement on new 2021 Tokyo Games dates

The Tokyo 2020 Organizing Committee, International Olympic Committee, and International Paralympic Committee announced today the postponed dates for the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2021. The Paralympic Games will take place August 24 to September 5 preceded by the Olympic Games from July 23 to August 8.

Statement from Marc-André Fabien, president, Canadian Paralympic Committee:

"On behalf of the Canadian Paralympic Committee, thank you to the IOC, IPC and Tokyo 2020 for rapidly making a decision on the new dates for the Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2021. We recognize the vast amount of work that lays ahead to bring a postponed Games to life and greatly appreciate all of their efforts. We commit to doing our part to make the Games a success.

"This now gives our entire sport community a true sense of clarity and a way to move forward. Now we, alongside our national sport organizations, partners, and athletes, can start preparations knowing we all will unite in Tokyo next summer, one year on from planned, and be able to celebrate how sport brings people together."

March 30, 2020

Registered Practical Nurses Association of Ontario CEO available to comment on impact of COVID-19 in long-term care homes

With news of COVID-19 outbreaks in long-term care homes, there is growing concern amongst Ontarians around how to protect the health and safety of our vulnerable populations and the nurses and other health professionals who care for them. To discuss the COVID-19 threat to long-term care homes from the perspective of frontline healthcare workers, Dianne Martin, CEO, Registered Practical Nurses Association of Ontario (WeRPN), is available to comment on the following:

Protective measures that workers, including nurses, should take to avoid contracting the virus and to limit the spread within long-term care homes

The steps being taken by government to protect frontline workers, and what can still be done

How WeRPN is regularly and closely working with Ontario's Ministry of Health to keep the long-term care community informed and updated about developments related to COVID-19

Advice for the general public on how to protect themselves from the virus and to avoid the spread of any misinformation

March 30, 2020

Stockpiling drugs can lead to local shortages:

Canadians urged not to buy more medication than usual during the COVID-19 pandemic

Products: Various medications

Issue: Increased demand and stockpiling of medications in response to COVID-19.

What to do: Do not buy more medication than usual to help ensure that all Canadians continue to have access to the medications they need and to help prevent drug shortages.

Health Canada understands the stress caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and recognizes that Canadians may be concerned about not being able to get medications they rely on for themselves and their loved ones.

While the Government of Canada recommends that Canadians refill their prescriptions now so that they do not have to go to a pharmacy if they become sick, we are urging patients not to buy more medication than usual. This will help ensure that all Canadians continue to have access to the medications they need and it will also help prevent drug shortages.

Patients are encouraged to contact their health care provider to renew their prescriptions ahead of time, Health Canada is also calling on health professionals to avoid prescribing or dispensing larger supplies of medication than necessary, unless there is a specific medical reason to do so. Increased demand and stockpiling of medications can lead to local shortages, which means that some may not be able to get the treatments they need.

Health Canada has been monitoring the supply situation closely and will take any necessary actions in collaboration with companies, provinces and territories, healthcare professionals, and our international regulatory partners to help ensure continued supply of needed medications for Canadians.

In addition, Health Canada has taken steps to speed up approvals of medical devices and drugs indicated to diagnose, treat, or mitigate the impact of the novel coronavirus and is expediting access to disinfectants, hand sanitizers, and personal protective equipment to help limit the spread of COVID-19.

Health Canada will continue to closely monitor the supply of drugs in Canada with the priority being that all Canadians continue to have access to the medications they need.

March 30, 2020

Ontario Enhancing Public Reporting about COVID-19

Dedicated Website Will Include Expanded Information of Confirmed Cases Across the Province

TORONTO — Ontario is enhancing the public information it provides about the status of COVID-19. As the outbreak evolves, Ontario has launched a new dedicated web page and is changing how COVID-19 cases are being reported to provide a more relevant summary of data from Public Health Ontario that offers expanded information every day at 10:30 a.m.

This daily epidemiologic summary replaces the general information on the status of COVID-19 cases that was previously provided twice daily on the web page. The new summary provides more provincial and regional data on confirmed cases, including trends of cases since the outbreak began, geography, exposure and severity.

"Ontario has been diligently monitoring and taking decisive action to stop the spread of COVID-19 and keep Ontarians informed," said Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health. "We will continue to work with Public Health Ontario, public health units and the health sector to have and report on the best possible data to help us understand the scope of the COVID-19 outbreak in our province and inform our collective response to keep all Ontarians safe and healthy."

The daily summary is based on data recorded by local public health units in the province's integrated Public Health Information System (iPHIS), as of 4 p.m. the day before the summary is posted. iPHIS is the Ministry of Health's disease reporting system, where data is regularly updated.

In addition to the daily update to the website, Dr. David Williams, Chief Medical Officer of Health, and Dr. Barbara Yaffe, Associate Chief Medical Officer of Health, will continue to hold regularly scheduled daily media briefings via teleconference, to provide an update on the province's ongoing response to COVID-19.

QUICK FACTS

Everyone in Ontario should be practicing physical distancing to reduce their exposure to other people. Avoid close contact (within 2 metres) with people outside of your immediate families.

If you think you may have COVID-19 symptoms or have been in close contact with someone who has it, first self-isolate and then use Ontario's Self-Assessment Tool to see if you need to seek further care.

On March 25, 2020, the federal government announced an Emergency Order under the Quarantine Act, that requires any person entering Canada by air, sea or land to self-isolate for 14 days whether or not they have symptoms of COVID-19. They should monitor for symptoms of COVID-19 for 14 days.

On March 28, 2020, Ontario issued a new emergency order under the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act to prohibit organized public events and social gatherings of more than five people.

Take these everyday steps to reduce exposure to COVID-19 and protect your health:

Wash your hands often with soap and water or alcohol-based hand sanitizer;

Sneeze and cough into your sleeve;

Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth;

Avoid contact with people who are sick; and

Stay home if you are sick.

MARCH 28, 2020

Ontario Protecting Supply Chains To Support COVID-19 Emergency Response

Province to Buy Urgently Needed Critical Goods and Services and Deploy them to Where They are Needed the Most

TORONTO - Ontario continues to take important steps to protect the province's supply chain and make sure the heroes on the front lines have the essential goods and services they need in the fight against COVID-19 like ventilators, masks and swabs.

"COVID-19 is impacting supply chains across Canada, and around the world," said Lisa Thompson, Minister of Government and Consumer Services. "That's why we are proclaiming the Supply Chain Management Act to make sure we can deploy critical supplies, equipment and services to where they are needed most."

These regulations will enable the Ministry of Government and Consumer Services and the Ministry of Health to centrally manage public sector supply chains. It will allow the collection of key data on inventories, orders and supply constraints and the development of a virtual inventory tool so that demand for crucial supplies are visible and trackable. With these measures in place, the government can prioritize buying what is needed most, deploying them, and allocating them on a priority basis to support the delivery of essential services to Ontarians.

Support will also be available to other public entities, such as publicly funded social service agencies and municipalities if they choose to participate.

"Ontario is implementing critical and necessary measures to ensure that we are able to protect the health and well-being of Ontarians," said Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health. "This includes working with innovators and businesses across the province who can supply emergency products and cutting-edge solutions to support ongoing efforts to contain COVID-19."

Ontario has also launched Ontario Together, a new website that is helping businesses work with the province to meet the challenges of COVID-19. This removes barriers allowing Ontario's manufacturing sector to redeploy capacity towards the production of essential equipment.

QUICK FACTS

Ontario declared a state of emergency on March 17, 2020 in the fight against COVID-19.

As part of Ontario's Action Plan: Responding to COVID-19, Ontario has announced \$935 million for the hospital sector, to address capacity issues, an additional 1,000 acute care and 500 critical care beds, and for additional assessment centres.

The government launched OntarioTogether to invite businesses and their employees to supply emergency products and innovative solutions in the battle against this disease.

MARCH 28, 2020

Durham Region reminds residents to think before they flush disposable wipes

Whitby, Ontario – With the recent COVID-19 pandemic, residents may be increasingly using disposable sanitizing wipes to disinfect or toilet paper alternatives. Unfortunately, some people are flushing these items in their toilet and this has already caused significant and costly blockages in Durham Region's sanitary sewer system. It is important to note that these conditions have the high potential of raw sewage back-ups into the basement of peoples' homes.

The Region of Durham, Works Department, is urging residents to only flush the three Ps – poo, pee and toilet paper. Durham's municipal sewer systems are built to handle human waste and toilet paper (which is specifically designed to deteriorate quickly—unlike wipes). Anything else being put down the toilet or sink causes problems that leads to clogs, blockages, damaged wastewater equipment and sewage back-ups flooding basements.

When fats, oils and grease are poured down the sink, they congeal and line the sewer walls, and these non-flushable items such as disposable wipes, paper towels and other hygiene products such as tampons, collect together with the grease to form clogs. This can cause a block in your toilet, your home sewer line, or form larger "fatbergs" which constrict the sewers of entire neighbourhoods. These clogs can also result in overflows of raw sewage into local rivers and lakes.

Raw sewage can back-up into your home and your neighbours' homes which will likely require you to evacuate your house for professional cleaning. Large blockages often require Regional staff to clear them, at a time when our efforts and tax dollars need to be focused on other critical services during this pandemic response.

Residents should also be aware that while some items are marketed as "flushable" in stores, such as so-called "flushable" wipes, are not flushable in Durham's sanitary sewer system. All wipes should be disposed of in the garbage can, not in the toilet.

To learn more, visit durham.ca/ThinkBeforeYouFlush.

"We are noticing an increase in blockages in our sewage system caused by people flushing disposable wipes down the toilet. We understand that many residents want to sanitize their homes and you may need to use toilet paper alternatives at this time, but please do not flush them. These items could end up flooding your basement with raw sewage, damaging our equipment and causing costly repairs. We urge you to think before you flush and only flush the three P's: poo, pee and toilet paper."

John Presta, Director of Environmental Services, Region of Durham

MARCH 27, 2020

Mayor Carter says your acts of kindness are lifting the spirits of the Oshawa community

In his Friday, March 27 video message to the community on the COVID-19 pandemic, Mayor Dan Carter thanks community members for their uplifting messages of encouragement and kind gestures towards City staff who are serving our community at this crucial time. Mayor Carter also recognizes local businesses that have adapted to these challenges to help meet our needs. He thanks community members for helping where they can and reminds everyone to continue to support one another while also practicing social distancing.

Mayor Carter can be reached at Mayor@oshawa.ca. To view the Mayor's video message, visit and subscribe to the City's YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/OshawaCity.

Instagram Live and #OurOshawa

"Live at Five" with Mayor Carter airs weekdays (Monday to Friday) at 5:00 p.m. on the City's Instagram account (@cityofoshawa). Questions and stories can be shared during the Live, or emailed in advance to Mayor@oshawa.ca. Follow the City on Instagram now and turn on all notifications for Live videos to receive an alert when the Live begins.

Community members are also invited to share their stories and photos illustrating the spirit of Oshawa and acts of kindness amid COVID-19 on social media using #OurOshawa.

MARCH 27, 2020

Coronavirus: 967 active cases of COVID-19 in Ontario, province now at 18 deaths

Ontario health officials report 132 new active coronavirus cases on Friday as well as three additional deaths, bringing the provincial total to 967 active cases of COVID-19. The province now has 18 deaths and eight resolved cases.

No breakdown information on age, gender, location, form of transmission or status was provided at all on the new cases.

More than 41,000 patients have been tested for the virus so far and around 10,000 people are currently under investigation awaiting test results.

MARCH 27, 2020

COVID-19: In person Service Canada Centres to be closed

The Honourable Ahmed Hussen, Minister of Families, Children and Social Development issued the following statement:

"COVID-19 has created unprecedented challenges across our country. Service Canada employees, along with many other public servants, have been working around the clock to deliver essential supports to Canadians during this difficult time. That work continues.

During a time when we are asking most Canadians to stay home, we need to make sure our service delivery model follows the best public health advice, while also meeting the needs of Canadians.

At this time, we will be closing in person Service Canada Centres. Let me be clear: Canadians will still be able to access their benefits. The best way to apply remains online at: <https://www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/ei.html>.

Employees at Service Canada sites will turn their attention to serving Canadians over the phone. Our Citizen Service Officers will be providing personalized service support for EI and pensions applications, in addition to the services provided over the phone by our call centres. This will allow more Canadians to get the support they need, while better protecting both them and our staff.

We recognize that this might be a challenge for some Canadians who prefer to receive services in person. I want to assure Canadians that we are committed to ensuring they all have access to the supports they need and deserve. Service Canada Community Outreach and Liaison Service staff are contacting communities to offer alternate service delivery methods that will continue to support access to critical programs, services and benefits.

This is an evolving situation, and we will continue to make sure our response reflects the unprecedented challenges we face. Along with serving Canadians, health and safety is and will remain our top priority."

MARCH 26, 2020

TROOPS MAY BE SENT TO US/CAN BORDER

American government officials inside Donald Trump's White House are actively discussing putting troops near the Canadian borders in light of U.S. border security concerns around the coronavirus pandemic, sources tell Global News.

Few people cross from Canada into the United States at an unofficial point each year but the goal of the policy would be to help border guards detect irregular crossers, the sources said.

Coronavirus deaths in U.S. top 1,000 as global number climbs past 20,000

While the White House is pushing for this, no decision has been made.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau confirmed the news while giving his daily briefing to reporters from Rideau Cottage, acknowledging that conversations are taking place.

"Canada and the United States have the longest un-militarized border in the world and it is very much in both of our interests for it to remain that way," he said.

MARCH 26, 2020

COVID-19 update in Durham Region

Whitby, Ontario – As the COVID-19 situation continues to evolve, the Region of Durham remains focused on the health and safety of residents. Residents are advised of the following service changes:

All water and sewer bill late payment charges, collection notifications and water shut offs for non-payment have been suspended. The Region will also offer enhanced payment flexibility for customers unable to pay their water and sewer bill on time.

All Water Billing inquiries should be directed to WaterBilling@durham.ca, rather than via telephone.

All Standing Committee meetings (Works, Health & Social Services, Planning & Economic Development, and Finance & Administration) have been cancelled in April. Reports scheduled for these April meetings will instead be presented at a Committee of the Whole meeting to be held on Wednesday, April 15 at 9:30 a.m.

Reminder: disposable wipes, even ones that are marketed or claim to be flushable, belong in the garbage and should not be flushed down the toilet. Please only flush human waste, water and toilet paper to avoid causing flooding or blockages in our sanitary sewer system. Learn more: durham.ca/ThinkBeforeYouFlush.

For a full list of impacts to Regional programs and services, visit durham.ca/ServiceChanges.

Get the most up-to-date information about COVID-19, in Durham Region, by visiting durham.ca/NovelCoronavirus.

MARCH 26, 2020

Mayor Carter says the City of Oshawa is responding to COVID-19

In his Thursday, March 26 video message to the community on the COVID-19 pandemic, Mayor Dan Carter says Oshawa's Pandemic Planning Steering Committee is meeting daily to respond to this quickly evolving situation with decisive action for the well-being of the community and staff.

Mayor Carter encourages community members to continue to lift the city's spirits by sharing their messages of hope and kindness, while also reminding residents to support others during this crucial time.

Mayor Carter can be reached at Mayor@oshawa.ca. To view the Mayor's video message, visit and subscribe to the City's YouTube chan-

nel at www.youtube.com/OshawaCity.

Instagram Live and #OurOshawa

“Live at Five” with Mayor Carter airs weekdays at 5:00 p.m. on the City’s Instagram account (@cityofoshawa). Questions and stories can be shared during the Live, or emailed in advance to Mayor@oshawa.ca. Follow the City on Instagram now and turn on all notifications for Live videos to receive an alert when the Live begins.

Community members are also invited to share their stories and photos illustrating the spirit of Oshawa and acts of kindness amid COVID-19 on social media using #OurOshawa.

MARCH 26, 2020

170 new cases of coronavirus in Ontario, total reaches 837 active cases

Ontario has confirmed 170 new coronavirus cases on Thursday as the provincial total rises to 837 active cases.

Eight cases are resolved, 13 people have died from the virus.

No new deaths have been reported as of Thursday morning.

Thursday’s list includes 12 hospitalizations – five of which are men and women in their 60s, 70s, and 80s from Lambton public health unit in Sarnia.

Forty-six cases had no information on age, gender, location, form of transmission or status — all categories are listed as “pending.”

The number of new single-day cases for Ontario has increased daily since Monday. Thursday’s 170 new confirmed infections mark the province’s largest single-day spike.

Story continues below advertisement

The province has tested more than 38,000 people so far and just under 11,000 are under investigation for the virus.

MARCH 26, 2020

6 notorious coronavirus scams and incidents

Digital privacy expert reviews coronavirus scams around the web

March 26, 2020. Today, we’re witnessing a phenomenal solidarity of people around the world stepping up during the global emergency of Covid-19. Apparently, cybercriminals waste no time to exploit it to their advantage. The number of coronavirus-themed scams and security incidents related to it has been steadily increasing over the last couple of months. Hackers are preying on people’s fears, spreading disinformation, and monetizing panic.

“This may be the most dangerous time to be online,” says Daniel Markuson, a digital privacy expert at NordVPN Teams. “And those least informed are in most danger. Hackers are exploiting very real fears about the coronavirus through fake emails and scam websites. People are giving up private information and downloading malware without a second thought.”

Below, you can read about the most common coronavirus scams and security incidents.

Emails from “health authorities.” When Covid-19 was just ramping up, cybercriminals were already on it. Pretending to be health officials, they sent out emails with instructions on how to prevent coronavirus infection. These instructions, disguised as PDF, mp4, docx files, contained malware, which harvested sensitive data or took over infected devices. “That’s the granddaddy of coronavirus scams,” says Daniel Markuson. “Fake emails from WHO, CDC, and other health authorities have been circulating since January, containing malware or phishing scams instead of life-saving information.”

Fake coronavirus maps. A black world map with expanding red dots. The now-famous Johns Hopkins University map is a source of much-needed information that is accessible to all. Hackers used Johns Hopkins University data to create malware-ridden apps and spread them all over the web to unsuspecting users. This resulted in cybercriminals gaining access to people’s phone cameras, microphones, and text messages.

An ecosystem of scam websites. Every day sees the launch of a thousand fraudulent coronavirus websites. They host phishing scams, distribute malware, or sell non-existent cures and supplements. “Covid-19 and coronavirus-themed websites are growing at an exponential rate,” says Daniel Markuson from NordVPN Teams. “Among them, there’s a large number of suspicious or outright malicious websites.”

Covid-19 weaponized in cyberwarfare. In February, an email went viral in Ukraine. Supposedly coming from the health ministry, it reported new coronavirus cases in the country, sparking violent protests and clashes with the police. The email was fake, and it came from outside of Ukraine. Russia is among the suspects because, as the email went viral, its state-sponsored hackers attacked Ukrainian targets with malware hidden in Covid-19 documents. And that’s just the tip of the iceberg. South Korean and Vietnamese cybersecurity firms reported coronavirus-themed attacks coming from North Korea and China, respectively. In India, a Pakistani-sponsored agent used a decoy health advisory document to collect sensitive information from Indian institutions.

Cyberattack on the US Health and Human Services Department. On March 15, cyberattackers tried to overload the Department’s servers with a DDoS attack (an attempt to flood and crash a service with superfluous requests). The Department’s servers suffered millions of hits over several hours, but this failed to make a dent in its systems. US officials suspect that the attack came from foreign actors. “No worse time than a global health emergency to DDoS the Health Department. Ethically, this is one of the worst things you can do — it could’ve cost lives,” says Daniel Markuson, the digital privacy expert at NordVPN Teams.

The virus of the mind. Hackers know that scared people tend to make irrational decisions. This is exactly why cybercriminals have been using coronavirus conspiracy theories to grab attention and exploit fear. By claiming to have a secret coronavirus cure or a new vaccine against Covid-19, they use social engineering to extract confidential data or bait users into downloading malware. “Not a piece of cybersecurity advice, just a general one — check your sources and prioritize what health authorities and healthcare professionals say over anything else.”

MARCH 26, 2020

Ontario Adopts Temporary Measures to Support Bars, Restaurants and Alcohol Retailers During the COVID-19 Situation

The Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO) is announcing a number of temporary measures to support Ontarians and businesses that have been significantly impacted by the spread of COVID-19.

Effective immediately, licensed restaurants and bars in Ontario may sell alcohol with food takeout and delivery orders between the hours of 9:00 am and 11:00 pm. All active liquor licensees may immediately begin offering this service if they choose and there is no application process or fee required. Liquor may be sold for takeout or delivery through a third party, such as a food delivery service or ordering plat-

form, provided they are acting on behalf of the licensee.

The holder of the liquor sales licence is accountable for the responsible sale and delivery of alcohol. This includes making sure the person to whom the order is delivered is at least 19 and is not intoxicated. The licensee or its staff involved in the delivery of alcohol must have successfully completed Smart Serve training. In instances where the delivery is being carried out by a third party on behalf of the licensee, Smart Serve certification is required by April 25, 2020.

Additionally, the AGCO is temporarily allowing authorized grocery stores and liquor manufacturer retail stores to begin selling alcohol as of 7:00 am in order to support early shopping programs for vulnerable people and to provide greater flexibility to retail stores. The temporary extension of hours also provides greater flexibility for all alcohol retail stores to choose their hours of sale to meet public health objectives. Consumers are encouraged to confirm the operating hours with retailers.

The AGCO is also extending by three months the term of all active liquor, gaming and cannabis licences, authorizations and registrations during this extraordinary situation. In all cases, licensees do not need to do anything. Existing licences will simply remain in effect for the extended period, at no additional cost.

In the case of horse racing, all horseperson licences will be extended for one year, to reflect the fact that those licences renew on an individual's birth date. Also, given the seasonal nature of horse racing, horse person licences that expired within the last six months will also be renewed for one year, subject to any rulings or other regulatory requirements.

"Everyone at the AGCO is concerned for the individuals, families, businesses and communities affected by this virus. We are working closely with the Government of Ontario to find ways of supporting Ontarians and the sectors we regulate during these challenging times." Jean Major, Registrar and CEO, AGCO

MARCH 26, 2020

Durham Region Notice: COVID-19 update in Durham Region

As the COVID-19 situation continues to evolve, the Region of Durham remains focused on the health and safety of residents. Residents are advised of the following service changes:

All water and sewer bill late payment charges, collection notifications and water shut offs for non-payment have been suspended. The Region will also offer enhanced payment flexibility for customers unable to pay their water and sewer bill on time.

All Water Billing inquiries should be directed to WaterBilling@durham.ca, rather than via telephone.

All Standing Committee meetings (Works, Health & Social Services, Planning & Economic Development, and Finance & Administration) have been cancelled in April. Reports scheduled for these April meetings will instead be presented at a Committee of the Whole meeting to be held on Wednesday, April 15 at 9:30 a.m.

Reminder: disposable wipes, even ones that are marketed or claim to be flushable, belong in the garbage and should not be flushed down the toilet. Please only flush human waste, water and toilet paper to avoid causing flooding or blockages in our sanitary sewer system. Learn more: durham.ca/ThinkBeforeYouFlush.

For a full list of impacts to Regional programs and services, visit durham.ca/ServiceChanges.

Get the most up-to-date information about COVID-19, in Durham Region, by visiting durham.ca/NovelCoronavirus.

MARCH 26, 2020

Mayor Carter says we all have a role to play to reduce the spread of COVID-19

In his fifth video message to the community on the COVID-19 pandemic, Mayor Dan Carter urges everyone to continue to do their part to reduce the spread of coronavirus by practicing physical distancing and limiting gatherings, washing their hands frequently and often, and following the recommendations of health officials.

Join Mayor Carter on Instagram Live weekdays at 5:00 p.m. "Live at Five" with Mayor Carter airs weekdays at 5:00 p.m. on the City's Instagram account (@cityofoshawa).

Questions and stories can be shared during the Live, or emailed in advance to Mayor@oshawa.ca. Follow the City on Instagram now and turn on all notifications for Live videos to receive an alert when the Live begins.

Community members are also invited to share their stories and photos illustrating the spirit of Oshawa and acts of kindness amid COVID-19 on social media using #OurOshawa.

To view the Mayor's video message, visit www.youtube.com/OshawaCity.

MARCH 25, 2020

McDonalds on Thickson closed due to contamination

At McDonald's Canada, our top priority is to protect the health and well-being of our people and our guests— it's at the core of everything we do.

On Tuesday, March 24, an employee from 1484 Thickson, Whitby, ON reported testing positive for COVID-19. We are in contact with Ontario Public Health to confirm this report. Out of an abundance of caution, McDonald's Canada made the decision to immediately shut down the restaurant for a thorough cleaning and sanitation by 3rd party cleaning experts, WINMAR. The restaurant will re-open once direction has been given by Ontario Public Health.

All crew members who may have been in close contact with the employee have been asked to self-quarantine until further information is available. The employee worked on March 11 from 7:00 a.m to 12: 00 p.m EST.

For any guests, who may have visited the restaurant on March 11, please take direction from the experts at the Ontario Public Health by visiting their website at <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/diseases-and-conditions/infectious-diseases/respiratory-diseases/novel-coronavirus>

We continue to work with the Ontario Public Health to support our people and our guests and will update this statement as more information is available for health authorities.

Thank you,

cid:image006.png@01D32CB1.D5908C50

Ryma Boussoufa

External Communications Manager, Corporate Relations

P: 514.421.4836 | E: ryma.boussoufa@ca.mcd.com

MARCH 25, 2020

Durham Region Health Department confirms COVID-19-related death of local resident

Durham Region Health Department has received confirmation of the Region's first COVID-19-related death. The individual, a man in his 90s, was a resident at Hillside Terraces in Oshawa, and was recently confirmed positive for COVID-19. The individual passed away on March 23 after being transferred from Hillside Terraces to Lakeridge Health Oshawa.

"We extend our sincere condolences to this man's family and our thoughts are with them during this very sad time," said Dr. Robert Kyle, Durham Region Medical Officer of Health. "It is truly unfortunate that this man's tragic passing underscores the need for us to work together as a community to help stop the spread of COVID-19. We need everyone's help to protect those most vulnerable in our community and encourage all area residents to take the practice of social and physical distancing very seriously and take action to protect your-

self and others in our community.”

The Health Department continues to urge residents to take every precaution to help stop the spread of COVID-19 and protect the health of the community, especially those who are most at risk. Social and physical distancing, keeping at least two metres, or six feet away from others, is one of the best ways to help prevent the spread of respiratory viruses, including COVID-19. It is also strongly recommended that you:

Wash your hands often with soap and water or hand sanitizer even when hands are not visibly dirty.

Cough or sneeze into your sleeve or elbow and encourage others to do the same.

Wash your hands after handling nose and throat secretions (e.g. after throwing out used facial tissues).

Avoid touching your face and cleaning hands before touching eyes, nose or mouth.

Clean and disinfect surfaces, especially those that are high-touch areas.

Do not share water bottles, straws, eating utensils, cigarettes, toothbrushes, toys or anything else that has been in contact with saliva, nose or throat secretions.

If you are ill, stay at home and keep yourself away from others.

Avoid close contact with anyone showing symptoms of respiratory illness such as coughing and sneezing.

If you are ill and must visit a health care provider, call ahead or tell them right away when you arrive that you have a respiratory illness and wear a mask while waiting to be seen.

Practice physical distancing: do your best to keep at least two metres (six feet) away from others.

If you are able, avoid all non-essential activity as recommended and declared by the province of Ontario.

If you think you may have COVID-19 symptoms or have been in close contact with someone who has it, first self-isolate and then use Ontario's Self-Assessment Tool to see if you need to seek further care.

If you need further assistance, call TeleHealth Ontario at 1-866-797-0000 or your health care provider. You can also call Durham Health Connection Line at 905-668-2020 or 1-800-841-2729.

If you or someone you know is experiencing severe symptoms, please call 911 immediately.

Area residents are encouraged to get updated information on COVID-19 by regularly reviewing credible sources of information. A list of these sources can be found by visiting durham.ca/novelcoronavirus.

MARCH 25, 2020

Mayor Carter wants to hear your questions and stories of kindness amid COVID-19

In his fourth video statement on the COVID-19 pandemic, Mayor Dan Carter encourages community members to continue to help where they can, thank our first responders and essential workers, and to share stories of kindness.

Community members are invited to share their stories and photos illustrating the spirit of Oshawa and acts of kindness amid COVID-19 on social media using #OurOshawa.

Join Mayor Carter for his first Instagram “Live at Five” on Wednesday, March 25 at 5 p.m. “Live at Five” will air each day at 5 p.m. on the City’s Instagram account (@cityofoshawa).

Questions and stories can be shared during the Live, or emailed in advance to Mayor@oshawa.ca. Follow the City on Instagram now and turn on all notifications for Live videos to receive an alert when the Live begins.

To view the Mayor’s video message, visit www.youtube.com/OshawaCity.

MARCH 25, 2020

Region of Durham Notice: What does this mean: State of emergency declaration in Durham Region

In follow up to the State of Emergency declaration in the Region of Durham—on behalf of John Henry, Regional Chair and Chief Executive Officer—residents are asked to note the following information about this declaration:

It is made in accordance with the Emergency Management By-law.

It demonstrates to residents that the municipality is taking the current situation seriously; using every step possible to protect our community from this threat.

It has no impact or influence over the March 23 direction from the Province of Ontario; or their direction around their classification of essential and non-essential services.

It does not provide access to any funding programs to assist with extraordinary costs of emergency.

The Region continues to evaluate the services and staffing that need to be in place to effectively respond to COVID-19 on behalf of Durham Regional Council.

MARCH 25, 2020

Emergency Operations Update for March 24

The City of Oshawa has ramped up its emergency operations as the next level of response to provide additional support and management to monitor, respond to and mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in the community.

On Friday, March 13, the City of Oshawa activated its Emergency Plan and City Council delegated authority to the Mayor and Chief Administrative Officer for use in emergencies. These measures provide the City the ability to make key decisions to maintain business continuity to manage the emerging issues of the COVID-19 pandemic.

From the onset, the City has been monitoring closely COVID-19 developments from government health officials and proactively implementing preventative measures and taking necessary actions in the interest of public health.

Since March 13, the City’s Pandemic Planning Steering Committee has been meeting daily. As the rapidly evolving issues of the Coronavirus pandemic unfold, we are effectively collaborating and maintaining open lines of communication with all levels of government. The City’s response is being coordinated with efficiency and effectiveness by all areas within the City’s corporate structure. Under the guidance and advice of Regional, Provincial and Federal Health experts, the City has implemented safeguards for staff and community members.

Close collaboration with Regional Emergency Management Operations staff, MPPs, MPs, Durham Regional Chair, Regional Mayors and Chief Administrative Officers, Regional Fire Chiefs and the Ontario Fire Marshal have occurred and will continue throughout the management of this public health global pandemic emergency.

“The health and safety of our community members is our number one priority. The City of Oshawa’s Pandemic Planning Steering Committee is fully committed and working tirelessly to manage the impacts of this pandemic and help protect our community members,” said Oshawa Mayor Dan Carter.

The City has established key objectives and protocols to keep critical services operating and providing service to the community.

“The City of Oshawa continues to focus on business continuity and maintaining critical functions and services for our community. I want to thank City staff who are on the front lines each day, ensuring that critical functions and essential services continue to operate,” said Fire Chief Derrick Clark, Oshawa’s Community Emergency Management Coordinator.

The City’s critical services remain intact. Oshawa Fire Services continues to be operational and is prepared to respond to protect the community. Planning, buildings, municipal bylaw, fire prevention and animal services all remain operational to further ensure community safety. Waste collection, parks and trails maintenance and fleet maintenance continue. Roads remain safe and operational. Legal, financial and procurement staff are ensuring the City is able to maintain business continuity and supplies are available for front line staff. The

City is working with our community partners looking after our most vulnerable to ensure food and shelter is available. Service Oshawa is available via phone, email and online services and communications staff are keeping the public informed.

"This is a critical time as communities around the world work together to slow the spread of COVID-19. We urge all community members to follow the recommendations of our government health authorities – stay home and stay safe," said Oshawa Mayor Dan Carter.

The City continues to post updates to its dedicated Coronavirus webpage. For a list of closures, changes to services, more information and F.A.Q.s, visit www.Oshawa.ca/Coronavirus.

Community members concerned about their health are asked to use the Ontario COVID-19 self-assessment tool to determine if they need to seek care or refer to Lakeridge Health's COVID-19 Assessment Clinic.

MARCH 25, 2020

Two Deaths in Ontario Long-Term Care Homes Related to COVID-19

Minister of Long-Term Care offers condolences to loved ones

TORONTO — Today, Dr. Merrilee Fullerton, Minister of Long-Term Care, issued the following statement in response to two deaths in Ontario long-term care homes related to COVID-19:

"I am deeply saddened to report to Ontarians that there have been two deaths related to COVID-19 in our province's long-term care system.

On Monday, March 23, a woman in her 90s passed away after testing positive for COVID-19 and being rushed to Lakeridge Health in Oshawa. She was a resident at Hillsdale Terraces, a long-term care home in Oshawa.

This morning, an 80-year-old woman passed away at St. Joseph's Hospital in Hamilton, where she had been in isolation since being admitted to the hospital on March 16. She was a resident of Heritage Green Nursing Home in Stoney Creek.

I offer my condolences to the families, friends and loved ones of these individuals, and to their long-term care communities. My thoughts are with you at this devastating time.

We will not stop our fight against COVID-19. These deaths speak to the severity of this outbreak and emphasize why our government is taking extensive action to keep long-term care residents and staff safe. We have introduced enhanced measures in long-term care homes to enforce social and physical distancing and contain the spread of COVID-19, increased bed availability and ensure homes are able to provide isolation rooms, ensure sufficient nursing and personal support care staff are available, and as of today, put in place a temporary order under the March 17, 2020 declaration of emergency that gives homes the flexibility they need to deploy staff when and where they are needed. These and more enhanced safety measures are outlined here.

The health and well-being of all Ontarians, including long-term care residents, their families, and staff is, as always, our government's number one priority. We will continue to put in place any process necessary to our fight against this outbreak so that we can protect our province's most vulnerable."

MARCH 25, 2020

Facility Closures and Program Cancellations

All City playgrounds, sports fields, courts and facilities including City Hall and recreation facilities are temporarily closed to the public to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. Facility closures to the public are being reassessed as the situation evolves. City services continue to operate and are available online, over the phone or by email.

For a list of closures, changes to services, more information and F.A.Q.s, visit: oshawa.ca/coronavirus.

MARCH 25, 2020

Stop the Spread Business Information Line Now Open at 1-888-444-3659

The province has launched a toll-free line 1-888-444-3659 to provide support to Ontario businesses who have questions about the province's recent emergency order to close at-risk workplaces following recommendations by Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health.

On Monday, the province issued an emergency order to close at-risk workplaces and encourage non-essential businesses to find ways to help their employees work from home. The government also reminded businesses to put in place protocols for physical distancing and regular hand-washing in order to protect the health and safety of employees and the general public.

Businesses who have questions about closures of at-risk workplaces or how emergency measures impact their business or employment can call the Stop the Spread Business Information Line at 1-888-444-3659.

Help is available from Monday to Sunday, from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

A complete list of essential services is available on the Government of Ontario's website.

MARCH 25, 2020

A caring Oshawa community comes together

Collaborative efforts are being made across the City of Oshawa and Durham Region to support our friends and neighbours who are most vulnerable to the threat of COVID-19.

"Oshawa is a caring, kind, compassionate and generous community. These extraordinary circumstances are calling on all of us to do our part, support one another and help where we can. Let us be the best we can be as we face this together," said Oshawa Mayor Dan Carter.

Food and Monetary Donations

Community members looking for ways to help are encouraged to donate to local charities.

A supervised food donation "drive-thru" benefiting Feed the Need in Durham will operate from Tuesday, March 24 to Friday, March 27 between 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. at Delpark Homes Centre parking lot (1661 Harmony Rd. N.). The drive-thru food drive is in partnership with The Regional Municipality of Durham, City of Oshawa, Town of Ajax and Municipality of Clarington, with two additional drive-thru locations in Bowmanville and Ajax. Additionally, monetary donations to Feed the Need can be made online to support the bulk purchase of non-perishable food items.

Salvation Army Oshawa is accepting food and donations at its Thrift Store's rear door at 45 King St. E. Monetary donations can be made online at www.oshawa-temple.org.

Simcoe Hall Settlement House is accepting non-perishable food items at 387 Simcoe St. S. in Oshawa. To learn more, including how to make monetary donations, visit <https://simcoehall.com/cause/donate>.

Back Door Mission for the Relief of Poverty is accepting food donations. Community members can drop off food donations at 66 Simcoe St. S., behind the church. Community members can also make monetary donations online.

Outreach

Through a collaborative effort, the Region, City, service agencies and the faith community continue to support our vulnerable community members.

Outreach workers continue to connect with vulnerable and unsheltered individuals to offer connections to services and shelter and provide essential supplies, including hygiene products.

Additionally, various social services agencies provide warming stations and centres and offer washroom facilities and meals.

Durham Region launches Community Resources webpage

The Regional Municipality of Durham has launched a Community Resources webpage with information on resources available to support vulnerable and unsheltered members in our community, as well as local community agencies that are actively seeking volunteers to help in a safe way.

MARCH 24, 2020

Region of Durham Notice: Supporting vulnerable populations in Durham Region during COVID-19

Amid the COVID19 situation, the Durham Region Social Services Department is working with community partners to ensure support continues for those who need it most.

Community resources

A new web page, durham.ca/CommunityResources, compiles a list of local resources available for vulnerable and marginalized individuals in the community. If you are worried about your income, shelter, food security, mental health, or transportation, please visit this website. This resource will be updated regularly.

Local community agencies are actively seeking volunteers to provide help to vulnerable members in our communities in a safe way. If you can help, please visit durham.ca/CommunityResources to find out ways that you can volunteer or donate to help support fellow Durham Region residents during this challenging time.

Food security

As COVID-19 puts a strain on community resources—including food banks—the Region of Durham is encouraging the community to donate to existing organizations, such as Feed The Need Durham, to provide safe and responsive service to people who need access to food. Please visit the Feed The Need Durham website for information about local food drives, including options for drive-through donations. Monetary donations toward Feed the Need in Durham may also be made online, which will be dedicated to bulk purchases of non-perishable food items.

Community Care Durham is expanding their Meals on Wheels, telephone assurance and delivery services. Visit durham.ca/CommunityResource for more information about how to get access to, or volunteer for, this program.

Emergency shelter programs

Local outreach support agencies, shelters and overnight warming centres remain open throughout Durham Region. Please visit durham.ca/EmergencyShelters to learn more about the options available for those who require assistance. Information about emergency supports for unsheltered residents is updated daily online through The Gap Committee.

Individuals who wish to access these services are also advised that these support agencies are following the advice of the Region's Health Department, to help prevent the spread of illness. This includes practising proper hand hygiene and social distancing; coughing or sneezing into one's sleeve or a tissue; active screening by staff at entrances; and increasing cleaning and disinfecting measures.

Emergency shelters are working with community hotel/motel owners to ensure that isolation spaces are available for clients who need it.

Durham Region CAREmongers

A new grassroots volunteer organization, Durham Region CAREmongers, provides support to get supplies to those who are quarantined or otherwise vulnerable, over 65 or immune-compromised, in a safe and responsible way. Training and support will be provided. Call 1-888-573-0982 if you can help or need help.

The Social Services Department will continue working with the community to ensure the health and safety of Durham Region's most vulnerable populations.

Durham Region residents should follow trusted sources of information to stay informed. For a full list of impacts to Regional programs and services, visit durham.ca/ServiceChanges. Get the most up-to-date information about COVID-19 in Durham Region at durham.ca/NovelCoronavirus.

"We are a community that supports one another. I am so inspired by the local organizations and volunteers who are stepping up for fellow residents. To Durham Region residents who have the means to do so, I encourage you to support your local food bank during this challenging and unpredictable time. Thank you to everyone who is stepping up to support one another—it is the strength of our human spirit that will carry us through."

- John Henry, Regional Chair and Chief Executive Officer

"To help prevent the spread of COVID-19, we are asking residents to practise social distancing by staying home as much as possible—but what about our residents who don't have a place to call home? We know the risk is high for these vulnerable residents, and our top priority is keeping everyone safe. The Region of Durham is ensuring that those living unsheltered have access to support services and a warm, safe place to stay. Thank you to our community partners for working collaboratively with us to provide continued support for everyone."

- Stella Danos-Papaconstantinou, Commissioner of Social Services

MARCH 24, 2020

Ontario Closing At-Risk Workplaces to Protect Health and Safety

Business-owners Encouraged to Continue their Operations Through Work-From-Home Policies and Innovative Business Models

TORONTO — Due to the evolving COVID-19 situation, the Ontario government will be ordering at-risk workplaces to close-down, while encouraging businesses to explore opportunities to continue operations through work-from-home and innovative business models. At the same time, the government reminds businesses to put in place protocols for physical distancing and regular hand-washing in order to protect the health and safety of employees and the general public.

Earlier today, Premier Doug Ford was joined by Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health, Rod Phillips, Minister of Finance and Sylvia Jones, Solicitor General to announce that the government will be closing at-risk workplaces to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Essential businesses include, but are not limited to grocery stores and pharmacies, telecommunications and IT infrastructure service providers, and businesses that support power generation, natural gas distribution and clean drinking water. Essential businesses are being asked to put into place any and all measures to safeguard the wellbeing of their employees on the front-lines.

Teleworking and online commerce are permitted at all times for all businesses.

"While this was a difficult decision, we trust that Ontario's business leaders will be able to promote safety while carrying out business and protecting jobs," said Premier Doug Ford. "The grocery store clerks, transit and hydro workers and truckers are out there on the front lines making sure the people of Ontario continue to have access to the products and services they need. It is essential that their workplaces be kept as safe as possible so these local heroes can return home to their families worry free."

At-risk workplaces will be ordered to close by 11:59 p.m. on Tuesday, March 24th and where possible, take the necessary measures so staff can work from home allowing operations to continue.

"Our government applauds the sacrifice and hard work of all Ontario workers and businesses, and will stand by them through this crisis," said Vic Fedeli, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade. "We call on workplaces that remain open to be vigilant and to enforce the highest possible standards of cleanliness and caution as we continue the fight together against COVID-19."

MARCH 24, 2020

LCBO To Remain Open

STORES TO CLOSE ON MONDAYS BEGINNING MARCH 30

Reduced hours remain in effect across the province Tuesday to Sunday

In response to COVID-19, the LCBO remains open but is implementing additional measures for the health and well-being of employees and customers. Effective Monday, March 30, all LCBO retail locations will be closed on Mondays. Previously announced reduced hours of 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. continue to apply Tuesday through Sundays.

e-Commerce delivery remains an option available to customers, though customers will have to follow pick up directions provided by Canada Post for home deliveries. Delivery through foodora, LCBO's On Demand Delivery partner remains available for customers living within the delivery boundaries.

This additional measure follows previous action taken to-date, including increased cleaning and sanitization, implementing measures in store that promote social distancing and introducing new HR policies in support of LCBO customer service and warehouse staff.

In support of safe shopping experiences, we remind all LCBO customers.

We will be managing traffic flow within our stores to avoid crowding and marking points on the floor as guidance while in line.

The use of debit or credit as payment is strongly encouraged.

To pack their own reusable bags.

We are not accepting any in-store product returns until further notice.

We must ask any customers who are sick, in isolation or returning from travel outside of Canada not to visit our stores, but rather make alternate arrangements through family or friends.

MARCH 24, 2020

Topper's Pizzeria's Supports Our Communities with two Special Programs to Help Food Banks and Thank First Responders

During this unprecedented time, Topper's Pizza is supporting their communities with two special programs. As of March 24th, \$3.00 from every Family Pleaser Combo sold will be donated to help local food banks and Feed Ontario's COVID-19 Emergency Food Boxes to support our communities. Customers can also choose to give additional donations of \$1, \$2, or \$5.

Second, as a special thank you to our Healthcare Workers and First Responders, starting March 25, Ontario Healthcare Workers and First Responders (Police, Fire and Paramedics) will receive 25% off any large pizza.

"These are unprecedented times and families are experiencing ever-increasing stress and worry; many having been laid off. Our local food banks are stretched thin and our Healthcare and First Responders are working around the clock to help Ontarians stay healthy and safe. Many people are going above and beyond to help. For these two groups specifically, they have added pressures and we wanted to help" said Keith Toppazzini, Co-Owner, Topper's Pizza Canada. "Our pizzerias are locally operated and giving back to our communities is of great importance to Topper's. We are so thankful for our Healthcare and First Responder's dedication and hard work, during this time. As well, supporting our customers and families facing food shortages during difficult times is critical. We encourage every company, neighbour, and community member to try to help in some small way", added Marie Fennell, President, Topper's Pizza Canada.

The Feed Ontario Family Pleaser program is available through delivery, contactless delivery and take-out by ordering on the Topper's App, website, calling 310-7171 or in-person at our pizzerias. Healthcare Workers and First Responders can get 25% off their large pizza offer through pick-up, by showing their credentials. Healthcare Facilities, Police, Fire and Paramedic Stations can also receive delivery from their local Topper's Pizzeria to their facilities main lobby or front entrances by calling 310-7171. "We are currently offering take-out and have implemented additional measures to continue offering this service safely for our employees and customers. The advantage of delivery to healthcare and first responder stations adds a layer of convenience and helping them eat during breaks, without leaving their posts, in this time of need", added Fennell.

MARCH 24, 2020

Dollarama recognized as essential business

Dollarama Inc. (TSX: DOL) ("Dollarama"), Canada's leading value retailer with nearly 1,300 stores from coast to coast, has been recognized as an essential business in Ontario and Quebec following the announcement of temporary exceptional measures to fight the spread of COVID-19. Dollarama will continue to operate its Montreal-based distribution centre, warehouses and at least all its retail locations with street access in these provinces.

"As a weekly shopping destination for millions of Canadians, we are doing everything possible to keep our stores open and well-stocked to provide affordable everyday necessities to our customers in the days, weeks and months ahead," said Neil Rossy, President and Chief Executive Officer of Dollarama. "The vast majority of our stores across Canada will remain open to serve our customers while respecting official health and physical distancing directives."

Recognition Bonus for Front-line Employees

Dollarama has implemented a 10% pay increase, effective March 23, 2020, through July 1, 2020, for all store-level employees as well as hourly distribution centre and warehouse employees.

"Our ability to provide everyday essentials to millions of Canadians is only made possible through the hard work of the Dollarama team working in our stores, in our warehouses, and in our distribution centre," said Mr. Neil Rossy. "We recognize the challenges they are facing and appreciate the incredible work they are doing to serve Canadians in these truly unprecedented circumstances."

In addition to this recognition bonus, Dollarama will continue to re-evaluate measures to be taken to support all its employees in the short-term and long-term as the situation evolves.

In-Store Health and Safety Measures

To protect its employees and customers, Dollarama has implemented additional cleaning and disinfecting procedures in its stores, distribution centre and warehouse operations. Dollarama encourages both employees and customers to follow hygiene guidelines recommended by public health authorities and to practice physical distancing. Dollarama store hours have been reduced to allow more time for sanitizing and re-stocking. Dollarama is also strongly encouraging that the first hour of operations each day be dedicated for the shopping needs of senior customers and those with chronic health conditions, to allow them to avoid busy and crowded shopping periods.

National Bank to donate \$500,000 to the United Way Centraide Canada COVID-19 Community Response and Recovery Fund

In response to an appeal from United Way Centraide Canada, National Bank announces that it will donate \$500,000 to the COVID-19 Community Response and Recovery Fund intended to support those most in need in communities affected by the pandemic. National Bank has been a proud partner of United Way Centraide Canada for more than 40 years.

The Bank's donation, along with community donations collected via the United Way Centraide Canada online platform, will be used to provide essential services, community services and services for senior citizens.

"It's always important to take care of the most vulnerable among us, but it's all the more vital in these exceptional circumstances," said Louis Vachon, President and Chief Executive Officer of National Bank. "United Way Centraide Canada is doing an outstanding job of improving the well-being of at-risk communities. That's why we need to continue to support them in the current situation. I'd like to recognize all the people who are doing their utmost to provide health and psychological care and socio-economic support in these trying times."

MARCH 23, 2020

Ontario Significantly Enhancing COVID-19 Screening Measures and Supports

Interactive Self-Assessment Tool Now Available to Help Keep People Safe

TORONTO — With the increasing severity of the COVID-19 outbreak, Ontario has now launched an enhanced and interactive self-assessment tool. This new easy-to-use tool takes the public through a series of questions to inform those who are concerned they may have contracted COVID-19. In a matter of seconds, this tool will help people determine if they are negative or it will provide them with guidance on where to seek care based on their needs. Critically, the enhanced tool provides the province with real-time data on the number and geography of users who are told to seek care, self-isolate or to monitor for symptoms. This data will help inform Ontario's ongoing response in order to keep individuals and families safe.

"I encourage anyone who may have been exposed to COVID-19, have symptoms or may have travelled outside of Canada to first self-isolate and then take a few seconds to complete our new online assessment tool," said Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health. "This easy-to-use tool, developed with guidance from Dr. Williams, Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health, is a great first step in that process. By answering a few questions, Ontarians will be able to make informed choices about what to do, while the province collects real-time data to enhance our ongoing response."

The tool guides individuals through a series of questions and, based on their responses, users are provided clear direction on what action to take. These next steps could include: continue to practice social distancing; self-isolate; call a primary care provider or Telehealth Ontario; or in the case of symptoms such as severe difficulty breathing or severe chest pain, call 911 or go to the emergency department.

Those people whose self-assessment shows they may have COVID-19 will be advised to call their primary care provider, who can conduct a virtual assessment by phone or other technology. People can also call Telehealth Ontario at 1-866-797-0000 (24/7), where they can speak to a health care professional about their symptoms. As announced last week, the province is rapidly expanding service capacity to ensure timely responses and has increased Telehealth's line capacity to more than 2,000 to help manage the high daily call volume.

In some cases, based on the virtual assessment, individuals may be referred by their primary care provider or Telehealth Ontario to one of the province's 58 assessment centres for an in-person assessment. These centres, which are by referral only, are helping to ease the pressures on hospital emergency departments using innovative care models, including in some cases drive-thru testing.

As part of the investment of up to \$304 million to enhance the province's response to COVID-19, Ontario will be establishing additional assessment centres across the province. The centres are located in dedicated spaces, which will facilitate high-quality care to protect broader patient populations. The 58 centres that have already opened are in several municipalities across the province.

Visit Ontario's website to learn more about how the province continues to protect Ontarians from COVID-19.

QUICK FACTS

Ontarians should be practising social distancing to reduce their exposure to other people. Avoid close contact (within 2 metres) with people outside of your immediate families.

Anyone who has travelled outside of Canada should:

Self-isolate for 14 days when they return. People who are self-isolating should not go to work.

Monitor themselves for symptoms of the 2019 novel coronavirus for 14 days after returning to Canada.

Contact their primary care provider or Telehealth Ontario at 1-866-797-0000 if they experience symptoms of the 2019 novel coronavirus.

To help prevent the spread of COVID-19, wash your hands often, cough and sneeze into your sleeve or a tissue, and stay home if you are feeling sick.

MARCH 23, 2020

COVID-19 Ajax Updates

The health and safety of our community and residents are our number one priority and we continue to monitor the situation very closely.

The Town is following the direction from Durham Region Public Health, who is making their decisions based on the provincial and federal response.

Facility Closures

All Town facilities are closed to the public, including

Ajax Community Centre

McLean Community Centre

Audley Recreation Centre

Village Community Centre and Arena

St. Francis Centre

St. Andrews Centre

Pat Bayly Square (skating & washrooms)

Ajax Creative Arts Centre

Rotary Park Pavilion

Carruthers Marsh Pavillion

Greenwood Discovery Pavillion

Quaker Meeting House

Hartrick House

Ajax Public Libraries (ARC, MCC and Main Branch)

Public washrooms along the waterfront and Pat Bayly Square remain open.

Town Hall - Restricted Access

The Town continues to provide limited public access at Town Hall for necessary business.

This service is only for matters requiring immediate attention and staff support, and cannot be accomplished through other means.

All walk-in visitors are being screened and directed to an appropriate department.

If your requirement is deemed not urgent, you will be provided with a contact card.

Access to Town Hall is limited to the Main Doors (parking entrance).

By-Law

Regular by-law enforcement suspended (excludes emergency situations).

Proactive enforcement programs suspended.

Sign permits being processed online via ajax.ca.

Animal services activities suspended (excludes emergencies).

Pet Licensing only available online. Expired pet tags will be forgiven during the COVID-19 Pandemic; we will pursue renewals once Town Hall reopens

By-law & Animal Phone Lines remain open at 905-619-2529, ext. 3370 and 905-683-8275 respectively.

Parking

Regular parking enforcement suspended (excludes emergency situations).

Proactive parking enforcement programs suspended (e.g. 3 to 6 a.m. parking).

Assist with emergency services (Fire, EMS, DRPS).

Ticket Review now a phone-based service. Call 905-619-2529, ext. 3340 to arrange.

Parking Ticket payment being accepted by cheque (Town Hall mailbox) or online payment only.

Legislative Services (marriages, commissioning of oaths, proclamations, licensing)

All marriage services suspended, including ceremony bookings and licensing.

Commissioning of Oaths suspended. In cases of emergency, please call 905-683-4550 or email contactus@ajax.ca.

Burial Permits being processed by appointment only. Please call 905-683-4550 or email contactus@ajax.ca.

Sale of Blue Boxes, Green Bins, Bag Tags, and Bus Passes suspended.

Death Registration Forms can be dropped off in the Town Hall mailbox or mail to 65 Harwood Ave. S, ON L1S 2H9.

Business Licensing suspended. Where people's licenses have expired, there will be no requirement to renew; we will pursue renewals once Town Hall re-opens.

Council recognition requests (congratulatory certificates, proclamations, flag-raising) suspended.

Serving Statements of Claim upon the Town by appointment only. Please call 905-683-4550 or email contactus@ajax.ca.

Delegations to Council from external individuals, groups and organizations suspended. Delegation requests can be made online for when normal meeting cycle resumes. Individuals are encouraged to submit written correspondence to Council by e-mail to clerks@ajax.ca.

FOI Requests will only be accepted by email or mail and payment by cheque. All correspondence and documents for release will be mailed to requester.

All archives and history activities suspended.

All in-person accessibility promotion and other public engagement are cancelled.

Parks & Playgrounds

Town of Ajax parks and playgrounds remain open. However, as the equipment is not sanitized and we are not able to monitor social distancing, we advise that residents use at their own risk and continue to take health precautions as recommended by the Chief Medical Officer.

Park and playgrounds guidelines during COVID-19

Recreation Services

Summer registration is postponed until further notice.

All recreation programs including spring sessions, drop-ins, pre-registered, public swims and public skates are cancelled.

All facility permits are cancelled until the end of May and no new bookings are being processed.

No festivals and events until further notice.

Tax Services

No counter service at Town Hall; for inquiries please call 905-683-2718 or email tax@ajax.ca.

Tax payments only being accepted by cheque (Town Hall mailbox), or by direct deposit through your financial institution until further notice.

The Town of Ajax has made the decision to waive tax payment penalties for 60 days effective immediately for all residents and businesses. The two month grace period will begin on the April installment with no penalty or interest charged for May or June. In addition, insufficient funds and pre-authorized fees will be waived.

If you have sent a post-dated cheque or have signed up for pre-authorized payments, please contact the Town by April 5, 2020.

Planning and Development Services

No counter service at Town Hall; appointment only. Please email planningservices@ajax.ca or call 905-619-2529, ext. 3631.

Major Planning Applications (OPA, ZBLA, Subdivision, Condo, Site Plan) being accepted by courier (65 Harwood Ave. S., ON L1S 2H9) or appointment. All application forms must be pre-commissioned.

Development Agreements and Securities being accepted by courier (65 Harwood Ave. S., ON L1S 2H9) or appointment. All application forms must be pre-commissioned.

Minor Planning Applications (Sign Variance, Driveway Widening, Compliance Letters, Tree Cutting) can be dropped off at Town Hall (mailbox) with cheque, or mailed to 65 Harwood Ave. S., ON L1S 2H9 with cheque.

Heritage Permits, Pickering Village CIP Grant Applications can be emailed to planningservices@ajax.ca.

Committee of Adjustment can be dropped off at Town Hall (mailbox) with cheque, or mailed to 65 Harwood Ave. S., ON L1S 2H9 with cheque.

All application forms must be pre-commissioned.

Engineering and Transportation

No counter service at Town Hall; appointment only.

Site Servicing Permit (Application received by Buildings) can be dropped off at Town Hall (mailbox) with cheque, or mailed to 65 Harwood Ave. S., ON L1S 2H9 with cheque.

Engineering Drawing submission can be dropped off at Town Hall (mailbox) with cheque, or mailed to 65 Harwood Ave. S., ON L1S 2H9 with cheque.

Sediment and Erosion Control Permit Application can be dropped off at Town Hall (mailbox) with cheque, or mailed to 65 Harwood Ave. S., ON L1S 2H9 with cheque.

Engineering Services

Call: 905-619-2529, ext. 3631

Email: EngineeringServices@ajax.ca

Transportation Services (General)

Call: 905-619-2529, ext. 3631

Email: traffic@ajax.ca

Transportation Services (Active/Sustainable Transportation)

Call: 905-619-2529, ext. 3631

Email: GetAjaxMoving@ajax.ca

Building Services

No counter service at Town Hall; appointment only. Please email buildinginspections@ajax.ca or call 905-683-4550.

Building and Demolition Permits can be dropped off at Town Hall (mailbox) with cheque, or mailed to 65 Harwood Ave. S., ON L1S 2H9 with cheque

Building Permit Applications can be dropped off at Town Hall (mailbox) with cheque, or mailed to 65 Harwood Ave. S., ON L1S 2H9 with cheque.

Electronic Building Application Submission: BpApp@ajax.ca.

Business Services

No counter service; appointment only. Please email priority@ajax.ca or call call 365-885-5154.

Film permits are not being processed until further notice.

Fire and Emergency Services

Community outreach programs, including LNTB, GRA, station tours, Grade 3 Presentations, general fire and life safety presentations have been suspended.

Conducting legislated inspection activities only.

Operations and Environmental Services

No promotion or public education events or activities until end of May.

COVID-19 Steering Committee & Municipal Control Group

The Town has established an internal steering committee to oversee our organizational planning and response. This includes our business continuity plans. The Town's Municipal Control Group has been activated.

All municipalities in Ontario must have an emergency response plan and an emergency management program. The plan serves as an operational guideline for the Town in managing an appropriate response to any emergency situation, or impending situation, that threatens life, health, safety and/or property of its residents, businesses and visitors.

Town of Ajax Emergency Response Plan

Council & Committee Meetings

All Council, Advisory, Property Standards and Animal Appeals Committees are cancelled.

Town Events and Public Meetings

All Town events and public information meetings are cancelled.

Social Media

You can also follow us on social media for additional news: Twitter, Facebook and Instagram.

Health Authority Information and Resources - How to Protect Yourself

Community members concerned about their health are asked to use the Ontario COVID-19 self-assessment tool to determine if they need to seek care.

Recommendations from Durham Health

To reduce the spread of germs, including COVID-19, the Durham Region Health Department recommends that residents:

Maintain social distancing (2 metres) and avoid large gatherings.

Wash hands often with soap and water and/or hand sanitizer.

Cough or sneeze into their sleeve or elbow and encourage others to do the same.

Avoid touching their face; and clean hands before touching eyes, nose or mouth.

If you are ill, stay at home and keep yourself away from others.

If you are ill and must visit a health-care provider, call ahead or tell them right away when you arrive that you have a respiratory illness and wear a mask while waiting to be seen.

The Region of Durham Health Department advises that if you are displaying symptoms of COVID-19, and have recently returned from travel outside of Canada, please contact your health care provider and Durham Region Health Department at 905-668-2020 or 1-800-841-2729

A full list of recommendations is available at durham.ca/NovelCoronavirus.

Websites

Government of Canada - Travel Notices

Durham Region Public Health

Ministry of Health

Government of Canada

World Health Organization

Phone Numbers

Durham Region Health Department at 905-668-2020 or 1-800-841-2729

Telehealth Ontario at 1-866-797-0000

Government of Canada COVID-19 Information Services at 1-833-784-4397

Durham Region Care Mongers

Toll Free: 1-888-573-0982

A local volunteer support group to get supplies to those unable to get out due to self-quarantine, compromised immune systems, age 65+ or otherwise at risk. View attachments below for more information.

MARCH 23, 2020

Ontario announces 78 new COVID-19 cases, total hits 489 active coronavirus cases

Ontario health officials confirmed 78 new cases of the novel coronavirus on Monday, bringing the provincial total to 489 active cases.

This is the highest single-day jump that Ontario has seen so far in new cases.

Six people have died in the province and eight cases have resolved.

The province's latest death is a man in his 80s, who had no travel history or close contact with anyone else who has tested positive for COVID-19. He died at Ross Memorial Hospital in Lindsay.

"Unfortunately, this man's tragic passing highlights that we now have community transmission of COVID-19 in our area," said Dr. Lynn Noseworthy, the health unit's medical officer.

Monday's list includes cases from Toronto, York Region, Peel Region, Halton Region, Durham Region, Hamilton, Sudbury, Ottawa, Simcoe Muskoka, Wellington Dufferin Guelph, Haliburton Kawartha Pineridge, Waterloo, Kingston, Frontenac, Lennox and Addington and Eastern Ontario health units.

Six patients are listed as needing hospitalization.

Some of the hospitalizations include men and women in their 30s, 40s, 50s and 70s.

The province has tested more than 28,000 people for the virus so far, and more than 8,000 people are under investigation.

MARCH 23, 2020

Town of Ajax News 3/23/2020 11:16:16 AM

Phone Lines are Currently Down

Phone lines at Town facilities are currently down. We are working quickly to resolve the issue.

If you need immediate assistance, please email: ContactUs@ajax.ca

MARCH 23, 2020

Durham Region Notice: Durham Economic Task Force forms to support local businesses through COVID-19

As the COVID-19 crisis has forced some businesses to close their doors, a new task force has been formed to connect with key stakeholders across the Region and respond to the urgent needs of businesses.

The Durham Economic Task Force came together rapidly last week when reports of business impacts were just beginning. It is a collaborative response team made up of Durham Region's Economic Development and Tourism team; Business Advisory Centre of Durham; all of Durham's chambers of commerce and boards of trade; as well as local municipal economic development teams. The members have also been engaging with other key stakeholders, such as local business improvement areas (BIAs).

Last week, this team surveyed the business community to understand the types of impacts they are experiencing. The task force was extremely thankful for the hundreds of responses they received, providing detailed reports of significant and immediate financial impacts, and the types of information and support needed to help them navigate through this crisis. Thanks to this crucial early feedback, this team is taking swift action to connect businesses the resources they need urgently for themselves, their workers and affected families during this challenging time.

"Our lives look very different today than they did a few weeks ago. For many of you, COVID-19 has forced you to make the difficult decision to temporarily close the doors of your business," said John Henry, Regional Chair and Chief Executive Officer. "At Wednesday's Regional Council meeting, we will be proposing a temporary, emergency loan program for our local Chambers of Commerce and Boards of Trade. We want to make sure that these organizations are fully staffed and available to provide direct support and resources to business owners now, when they need our support more than ever."

The Durham Economic Task Force's immediate priorities are to:

- Advocate for the urgent needs of Durham Region's business community to the provincial and federal governments.

- Provide resources and information about business supports available from various levels of government—from applying for government relief, to payment flexibility from local utilities such as gas, hydro, and water.

- Work with other levels of government and stakeholders to develop and implement support programming for business owners, affected employees, and their families, who are experiencing financial impacts as a result of COVID-19.

- Provide direct support to help guide small businesses through the process of accessing emergency financial assistance and programming from all levels of government.

- Promote Durham small businesses that are still open, particularly the local food and agri-businesses who are offering safe, no-contact delivery and pick-up services.

"The Durham Economic Task Force has one goal: to deliver the urgently needed information, support, and resources to our business community to help them get through this difficult time. We heard what you urgently need, and we're all working to make sure you're supported," said Simon Gill, Director of Economic Development and Tourism. "We've put together a comprehensive website to share timely information and resources to support you, your workers and affected families. I am inspired to see how our business community has come together, showing acts of kindness and solidarity and supporting one another. One day soon, we will shift to provide additional services for re-starting, re-opening, and re-launching. We will get through this together."

The new website, InvestDurham.ca/CovidResponse, gathers the latest resources and information for businesses in Durham Region regarding government programs, services and supports. This resource will be updated daily to make sure it has current information about business supports available, federal and provincial financial programs, how to access funds, and employee/employer resources.

If businesses have questions, they should reach out to their local chamber of commerce, board of trade, BIA, Business Advisory Centre Durham, or their local municipal economic development office.

The Durham Economic Task Force will work to ensure Durham's economy comes out strong and proves that it is more resilient than ever.

MARCH 23, 2020

Maple Leaf Foods expands efforts to support front line workers, communities and health care providers during COVID-19 pandemic

Maple Leaf Foods Inc. (TSX: MFI) today announced that it is taking immediate action to further support its front line staff, emergency food relief and health care providers in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The actions include a weekly bonus for its hourly staff, an investment of approximately \$2.0 million to support emergency food relief efforts and an investment of \$2.5 million in a new fund to provide personal support to front line health providers during this crisis.

"In this global crisis, we are compelled to look beyond our business and do what we can to support the many dedicated people who continue to deliver the critical services we depend on, as well as the most vulnerable in our society," said Michael McCain, President and CEO. "We encourage all companies with resources and capacity to do what they can to add their support. Together, we can make a meaningful difference in working alongside governments to fight this pandemic and restore our public and economic health."

Maple Leaf Foods' expanded efforts focus on four key efforts:

- Supporting Essential Staff:** Producing safe, nourishing food is an essential service that is made possible by the dedication of people who work in our production and distribution facilities. Effective immediately, Maple Leaf Foods will be providing its hourly people who are working to maintain a safe supply of food with an \$80/week additional support payment, in addition to regular and overtime pay.

- Supporting Emergency Food Relief:** In partnership with the Maple Leaf Centre for Action on Food Security (the "Centre"), Maple Leaf Foods will be supporting the critical efforts of food security organizations to meet vastly increased demands. In addition to \$500,000 in financial and food contributions recently committed, Maple Leaf Foods and the Centre will be launching a matching campaign to raise an additional \$2.0 million to support emergency food relief efforts across Canada.

- Supporting Health Care Workers:** Maple Leaf Foods will be donating \$2.5 million to the CANADIAN FRONTLINE HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS PROTECTION FUND (CFHPPF), a fund being established by hospital foundations across the country to provide additional support for front line health care workers.

- Supporting Knowledge Sharing:** As a major Canadian food company, making safe food is at the core of what Maple Leaf Foods does. Our supply chain knowledge of how to operate in food-safe, pathogen-controlled environments can provide transferable practical knowledge on how to keep Canadian manufacturing and supply chains safe. Maple Leaf Foods will be working with its peers and partners in the public and private sector to coordinate forums for knowledge sharing and expertise to combat this pandemic, and keep our supply chains safe as we provide essential services.

MARCH 23, 2020

Detained in Dubai calls upon Gulf States to release expat detainees at risk of Coronavirus

The overwhelming majority of Western expats currently detained in the Gulf States have been convicted on financial charges which are not criminal offenses in their home countries. Things like bounced cheques have led to wrongful imprisonment in case after case and these detainees now face a substantial threat from exposure to the Coronavirus in overcrowded, unhygienic facilities in countries like the UAE and Qatar. Radha Stirling, CEO of Detained in Dubai and Due Process International, who campaigns on behalf of expats who have been falsely accused or wrongfully detained overseas, has called for Gulf States to immediately release prisoners and foreign nationals under court-ordered travel bans, and to expedite their return home.

"Not only do prison conditions present the potential for rapid and uncontrollable spread of the virus, with often non-existent medical care; but the measures being taken thus far by the governments in the region are inadequate to protect the public," Stirling says, "Our citizens,

whether from the UK, Australia, Canada, Europe or the US, who are held in the Gulf on private financial disputes pose no risk to anyone if they are repatriated, but are themselves at a severe risk if they are not."

The UAE has confirmed around 200 cases of Coronavirus, and Qatar has close to 500 at the time of Stirling's comments. Both countries risk potential exposure from significant Iranian populations and trade. Iran has the highest incidence of Coronavirus in the region, with over 23,000 cases and nearly 2,000 deaths so far. Qatar and the Emirates have banned commercial air flights to and from Iran, but sea transport continues with few restrictions.

"There are families in the UK, Europe, Canada, Australia and the US who have already been unfairly separated from their loved one for months or even years because these unwarranted travel bans and wrongful detentions; and they are absolutely frantic about the health and safety of those they care about while they are trapped in the Gulf," Stirling reiterates, "What compassion requires in these cases does not in any way impinge on what justice requires; these detainees are not criminals, they are not dangerous people, they are ordinary business people and professionals, and they are in an extremely vulnerable position. We are calling upon the governments of Qatar and the UAE specifically to release our citizens and let them come home, and we are asking the relevant officials of Western governments, including the UK, to urgently request the repatriation of our detained citizens to ensure their safety amidst the growing Coronavirus pandemic"

MARCH 23, 2020

Ontario Protecting the Most Vulnerable During COVID-19 Crisis

New Funding Will Support Municipalities, Food Banks, Homeless Shelters and Individuals

TORONTO — The Ontario government is providing \$200 million in social services relief funding to help protect the health and safety of the province's most vulnerable people in response to the outbreak of COVID-19.

The province will be providing municipalities and organizations that administer social services with funding to support them in their response to COVID-19. The funding will help municipalities and social service providers such as shelters, food banks, emergency services, charities and non-profits continue to deliver their critical services, hire additional staff, and find ways to promote social distancing and self-isolation to keep clients safe and healthy. Ontario's municipal service managers will determine local needs and distribute the funding, ensuring clients are receiving the support they need.

"Our government will spare no expense to protect the health and safety of all Ontarians," said Premier Doug Ford. "We are doing our part to show the Ontario spirit and we will make sure no one gets left behind. Organizations across the province are doing critical work right now to help vulnerable Ontarians and these funds will allow them to directly help those who need it most."

The funding will also help individuals who do not qualify for emergency financial supports under federal programs. The government is putting in place an expanded Emergency Assistance program administered through Ontario Works (OW) to cover these individuals' needs such as food, rent, informal childcare, and services. There will also be discretionary benefits available to those who already receive social assistance.

This new funding will help individuals and families in financial crisis who are not able to access federal assistance to cover needs such as food, rent, medicine, transportation and other services during this public health crisis. Funding will also be made available to organizations delivering social services to vulnerable First Nations individuals and families. Individuals can apply online at [Ontario.ca/community](https://ontario.ca/community).

"Protecting our most vulnerable is an absolute priority, as the COVID-19 crisis continues to develop," said Todd Smith, Minister of Children, Community and Social Services. "We're expanding access to temporary emergency assistance so that individuals who have no other means of financial support can stay safe and healthy."

This fund will also help local communities support their shelter systems during this health crisis. The province's 47 municipal service managers will deliver this funding, ensuring clients are receiving the support they need, and will make local decisions on community funding.

"We are acting quickly to support those who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless during this unprecedented time," said Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. "This funding will go straight to communities, who know best what the immediate needs are on the ground in their local shelters."

"This new funding will provide much needed support to our province's most vulnerable as we continue to take decisive action to contain the spread of COVID-19," said Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health. "If Ontario is going to successfully flatten the curve, it's vital that we ensure that all Ontarians have the resources they need to protect their health and well-being."

QUICK FACTS

Last week, Ontario announced a \$304 million investment in COVID-19 response, including \$20 million for residential facilities in developmental services, gender-based services and protective care for children and youth.

To further bolster safety measures for social-assistance clients and caseworkers, the government has also temporarily removed the requirement for clients to provide written documentation at this time. Ontario Works (OW) and Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) payments will be made as usual and will continue based on previous levels of income support. Individuals will not have to visit their local office to provide written documentation during this time. If individuals need to connect with their caseworker, they are encouraged to connect over the phone instead of visiting in person.

MARCH 23, 2020

Prime Minister announces support for farmers and agri-food businesses under Canada's response to COVID-19

Canadian farmers and food businesses work hard so Canadians have quality food on their grocery store shelves and kitchen tables. In these times of uncertainty, it is more important than ever to make sure that they are supported so they can continue providing the good, healthy food that nourishes our families.

The Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, today announced important new measures to support farmers and agri-food businesses in Canada facing financial hardship due to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Farm Credit Canada will receive support from the Government of Canada that will allow for an additional \$5 billion in lending capacity to producers, agribusinesses, and food processors. This will offer increased flexibility to farmers who face cashflow issues and to processors who are impacted by lost sales, helping them remain financially strong during this difficult time.

In addition, all eligible farmers who have an outstanding Advance Payments Program (APP) loan due on or before April 30 will receive a Stay of Default, allowing them an additional six months to repay the loan. This important measure, which represents \$173 million in deferred loans, will help keep more money in farmers' pockets during these critical months.

The Stay of Default will also provide farmers the flexibility they need to manage their cashflow when facing lower prices or reduced marketing opportunities. Applicable farmers who still have interest-free loans outstanding will have the opportunity to apply for an additional \$100,000 interest-free portion for 2020-2021, as long as their total APP advances remain under the \$1 million cap.

The Government of Canada remains committed to supporting Canada's agricultural sector to ensure that farmers and businesses have the support they need to provide for their families and all Canadians during this critical time.

"Farmers and food producers work hard to put food on tables across our country, and they should not have to worry about being able to afford their loan payments or having enough money to support their own families. We are taking action now to give them more flexibility to

meet the challenges ahead in these times of uncertainty."

—The Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada

"Like many Canadians, I am truly grateful for our farmers and food business owners and employees, who continue working hard so we all have quality food on our grocery store shelves and kitchen tables. Their continued work is essential to our plan to manage COVID-19. The measures announced today will provide farmers and food producers across the country with important financial flexibility they will need during these challenging times."

— The Hon. Marie-Claude Bibeau, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food

Quick Facts

Grains, oilseeds, and pulse producers who participated in the 2018 Stay of Default announced this summer, are encouraged to contact their administrator for more details. Cattle, bison, flower, and potted plant producers should also contact their APP administrator to enquire about their eligibility for the Stay of Default.

The Advance Payments Program is a financial loan guarantee program that provides producers easy access to credit through cash advances. For the 2019 program year, there are over 21,000 producers participating and over \$3 billion in advances.

Administrators participating in the Stay of Default are the Alberta Sugar Beet Growers, Alberta Wheat Commission, BC Breeder and Feeder Association, Canadian Canola Growers Association, Manitoba Corn Growers Association Inc., Manitoba Livestock Cash Advance Inc., Western Cash Advance Program Inc., PEI Federation of Agriculture, and the Agricultural Credit Corporation.

Farm Credit Canada is our country's leading agriculture and food lender, with a healthy loan portfolio of more than \$38 billion. The Crown corporation provides flexible, competitively priced financing, management software, information, and knowledge specifically designed for the agriculture and food industries.

Farmers will continue to have support under the Canadian Agricultural Partnership. The comprehensive suite of business risk management programs are designed to help manage significant financial impacts and risks beyond farmers' control.

The new deadlines for outstanding Advance Payments Program loans are as follows:

September 30, 2020: 2018 cash advances for grains, oilseeds, and pulses.

September 30, 2020: 2018 cash advances for cattle and bison.

October 31, 2020: 2019 cash advances on flowers and potted plants.

MARCH 23, 2020

12:20 PM

Canada's plan to mobilize science to fight COVID-19

The Government of Canada is supporting our country's researchers as they do critical work to protect the health and safety of all Canadians, and people around the world, during the COVID-19 outbreak.

The Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, today announced support to quickly mobilize Canadian researchers and life sciences companies to support large-scale efforts towards countermeasures to combat COVID-19, including potential vaccines and treatments.

This \$275 million for coronavirus research and medical countermeasures is part of the Government of Canada's more than \$1 billion COVID-19 Response Fund. The funding will be used to advance projects that are already underway by university researchers and others to respond to COVID-19, and ensure domestic supply of potential vaccines. These research efforts can move quickly, and include:

\$192 million in new projects that will be prioritized under the new Strategic Innovation Fund COVID-19 stream to deliver direct support to Canadian companies for large-scale projects. These companies include:

AbCellera, a Vancouver-based biotech company that has built the world's leading technology for antibody discovery, is at the forefront of developing antibody-based drugs to treat and prevent COVID-19. AbCellera's technology is being used to search blood samples of patients who have recovered from COVID-19 to find naturally-produced antibodies that can be used for treatment and prevention. AbCellera was the first company in North America to receive a sample from a convalescent patient, and within days identified over 500 human antibodies that are candidates for development as a treatment. The company has partnered with global biopharmaceutical company Eli Lilly to rapidly manufacture and distribute a treatment with the goal of beginning clinical trials in July 2020.

Medicago, a Quebec City-based company with 20 years of experience in plant-based vaccines and therapeutics, that has identified a viable plant-based vaccine candidate currently at the pre-clinical testing phase. Funding will allow Medicago to rapidly move forward on clinical trials and then quickly shift to scaling up production for pandemic response.

Funding for the University of Saskatchewan's Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization – International Vaccine Centre (VIDO-InterVac), one of the largest and most advanced infectious disease research facilities in the world. With \$11 million in funding from the Canada Foundation for Innovation, VIDO-InterVac will be able to strengthen its existing expertise in coronavirus research and to help develop a vaccine for COVID-19. An additional \$12 million from Western Economic Diversification's Regional Economic Growth Through Innovation program will help VIDO-InterVac expand its bio-manufacturing capacity to support clinical trials.

Funding of \$15 million for the National Research Council of Canada to upgrade its Human Health Therapeutics facility in Montréal to develop, test and scale-up promising vaccine candidates to be ready for industrial production. This will involve certifying the facility for Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) quality assurance to ensure that their human pharmaceuticals and biologics, including vaccines, are consistently produced and controlled. This certification will support a more effective roll-out and production of vaccines, and help ensure that any vaccines produced by the facility can be made available to Canadians and people around the world more quickly.

Support for BlueDot, a Toronto-based digital health firm, with a first-of-its-kind global early warning technology for infectious diseases. The company was one of the first in the world to identify the spread of COVID-19. The Government of Canada, through the Public Health Agency of Canada, will use its disease analytics platform to support modelling and monitoring of the spread of COVID 19, and to inform government decision-making as the situation evolves.

These measures are part of a larger strategy the Government of Canada is implementing to protect Canadians and prevent the spread of the virus. The whole-of-government strategy will help ensure the capacity of our health care system, support international and domestic efforts, and mitigate the economic impacts on Canadians and Canadian business.

"Canada is home to some of the most skilled and brightest researchers in the world, who are working hard to develop countermeasures that will protect the health and safety of Canadians and support international efforts to fight this pandemic. We are all in this together, and need to be doing our part to prevent the spread of the virus."

—The Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada

"The Government is committed to protecting the health and safety of Canadians. We are all in this together: Canada is benefiting from the impressive and innovative power of Canadian researchers and businesses in our coordinated national approach to fight COVID-19. Together, we are rapidly scaling-up our capacity in research and in manufacturing the products we will need during the pandemic."

— The Hon. Navdeep Bains, Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry

"Our top priority is protecting the health and well-being of Canadians. We are funding nearly 100 research teams focused on rapidly developing effective methods to diagnose, treat, and manage patients with COVID-19 and on determining how to further strengthen our communication with Canadians."

—The Hon. Patty Hajdu, Minister of Health

"In the fight against COVID-19, we're enlisting the best of Canadian ingenuity. Through our whole-of-government approach, we will be able to scale up the efforts to develop a vaccine for COVID-19, thanks in part to the support of our regional economic agencies across the country."

—The Hon. Mélanie Joly, Minister of Economic Development and Official Languages

Quick Facts

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 outbreak, the Government of Canada has supported Canadian researchers and consulted with experts from around the world to help combat this new coronavirus.

On March 11, 2020, the Government of Canada announced a \$1-billion package to help Canadians cope with the COVID-19 outbreak, which included \$275 million for coronavirus research and medical countermeasures.

A rapid research funding competition for projects was also launched to provide new evidence to help address COVID-19. Thanks to federal research funding organizations and researchers who volunteered their time to urgently review applications, the Government of Canada is now providing \$52 million in funding for 96 research projects. Researchers will focus on developing and implementing measures to rapidly detect, manage, and reduce the transmission of COVID-19 to help tackle the spread of the virus in Canada and around the world.

On March 20, 2020, the Prime Minister announced Canada's Plan to Mobilize Industry to fight COVID-19, which will create pathways to deploy resources to domestic manufacturers and businesses so they can help during this critical time.

The Plan introduces new measures to help these businesses rapidly scale up production or re-tool their manufacturing lines to develop products made in Canada that will help in the fight against COVID-19. These products include critical health and safety supplies and equipment, including personal protective equipment, sanitization products, diagnostic and testing products, and disease tracking technology.

On March 21, 2020, Minister Bains sent a letter to every university, college, polytechnic and cegep in the country asking them to help identify personal protective equipment, medical equipment and supplies in laboratories that the government might be able to purchase during the crisis. The Minister also asked for help to identify innovative manufacturing solutions, such as 3D printers, that could help address potential shortages of essential equipment.

The Chief Science Advisor of Canada (CSA) has assembled a multidisciplinary science expert panel to advise her on the latest scientific developments relevant to COVID-19. This information will assist the CSA in providing current and cross-disciplinary advice to the Prime Minister and government. The expert group is composed of distinguished Canadian scientists and will be meeting on a regular basis to discuss available science and evidence from disease modelling, risk perception, diagnostic, and clinical research.

MARCH 23, 2020

World Animal Protection Calls for International Ban on Wildlife Trade Due to COVID-19

They are one of the most misunderstood creatures on the planet and considered Africa's most legally traded live animal—the Ball python. A poster animal for the exotic pet trade, their name comes from the animal's tendency to curl up into a tight ball when stressed or frightened. Reptiles are often perceived to have no feelings, and false assumptions like this and the myth that reptiles require little care are some reasons they can end up as exotic pets.

Now, a ground-breaking report by World Animal Protection is sounding the alarm over the international trade of Ball pythons. The charity is also calling for a stop on all global wildlife trade. Wild animals, poached from their natural habitat or bred in captivity, are typically placed in cramped cages and dirty conditions, which causes them suffering and creates a lethal hotbed of disease. This can harm humans when coming into contact with them as we have seen with COVID-19. The virus is believed to have been transmitted from animals to humans at a live animal market in Wuhan, China.

Snakes sold there were originally suspected as a potential source. However, even if snakes are not the original source, the charity's visits to snake farms in West Africa revealed that these facilities do more than just feed the demand for Ball pythons as pets. They also act as wider trade hubs, exporting other wildlife, including bats, civets and primates, which are higher up the human health list of concern when considering their role in epidemics such as SARS in 2002 and Ebola in 2013.

China banned the consumption of land-based wild animals due to COVID-19 and late last week Vietnam followed suit. While this is a great first step, other wild animals such as exotic pets and animals used for traditional medicine are not included.

Limiting our contact with these animals is necessary to decrease the chances of viruses spreading to humans and a permanent ban on all wildlife trade would help to prevent major health epidemics and pandemics from happening again, as well as reduce animal suffering.

Edith Kabesiime, Wildlife Campaign Manager at World Animal Protection Africa, says, "The international trade of African Ball pythons is an important source of economic income for some local communities, but when the snakes are all gone, the money will be too. With the recent coronavirus outbreak, we are also starting to realize that the economic and human costs of an outbreak due to the demand for an exotic animal is a price not worth paying."

Meanwhile, Ball pythons and other wild animals continue to suffer in the exotic pet trade.

[The Ball python is considered Africa's most legally traded live animal. They mainly become a pet in places like Canada and the United States. They can suffer during transport to their destination and when in captivity. Pictured: The video here is a trailer to the documentary done by World Animal Protection on the plight of Ball pythons. Credit: World Animal Protection]

Cassandra Koenen, Global Head of Wildlife not Pets at World Animal Protection says, "The trade of Ball pythons as exotic pets is a massive global market that has impacted millions of animals over the last several decades. These misunderstood animals suffer cruelty from capture, through to a life of captivity. We must end the global trade of wildlife for our health and their welfare."

Canada is considered one of the main importers of Ball pythons. In just over 45 years, more than 3 million Ball pythons have been exported from West Africa, to Europe, Asia, the United States and Canada.

In Canada, an estimated 28,000 Ball pythons are kept in households as pets. While most owners mean well, the lack of understanding for the animal's welfare just leads to suffering as Ball pythons are mainly kept in spaces much smaller than their natural habitats.

Once these animals are sold, anyone who comes into contact with them is at risk of contracting illnesses like Salmonella

a. A recent outbreak in Canada had just over 90 cases where people had come into contact with pet snakes before they became ill and that may have been the cause of the outbreak.

We are all in this together and our relationship with animals needs to change. World Animal Protection is asking people to join the movement to help stop the global wildlife trade. It will benefit humans and animals alike.