

City of Sarnia

MEDIA RELEASE

DATE: March 30, 2020

RELEASE DATE:

Immediate

FROM: City of Sarnia Primary Control Group

SUBJECT: COVID-19 Update – March 30

The Sarnia Primary Control Group met via teleconference on March 30, 2020 at 9:00 am with Dr. Sudit Ranade, Chief Medical Officer of Health, regarding developments related to the COVID-19 pandemic. We subsequently received confirmation at 11:23 am that the number of deaths connected to the COVID-19 pandemic within the Sarnia-Lambton area has risen to 4 and that there are now 28 confirmed cases within this area.

Given the rapidly changing situation, we would like to refer concerned community members to the websites for Bluewater Health and for Lambton Public Health for up to date information on the COVID-19 Virus, including the number of active cases within our community:

Blue Water Health:

<u>https://www.bluewaterhealth.ca/covid-19-information</u>

Lambton Public Health:

<u>https://lambtonpublichealth.ca/2019-novel-coronavirus/</u>

Lambton Public Health has indicated that they have seen a significant increase in the number of reported positive COVID-19 cases due to the clearing of testing back-logs and are currently in the process of tracing individuals who may have been in contact with these patients and will follow up with them directly to confirm appropriate actions that they must take to prevent the further spread of this virus within our community. Given the confirmed presence of the COVID-19 virus within our community, we remind community members that it is essential that we all do our part to stop the spread of this virus by continuing to adopt safe practices such as social distancing, regularly washing our hands and not touching your faces, keeping a safe distance of at least 2 metres from others and do not gather in groups of more than 5 people as mandated by the Ontario Government.

If you think you may have COVID-19 symptoms, or have been in close contact with someone who you believe may have been infected, first selfisolate and then use <u>Ontario's Self-Assessment Tool</u> to see if you need to seek further care.

A suggestion was made by many community members to provide free hotel accommodations to health care practitioners and front line staff who are required to deal with the COVID-19 emergency and are concerned with bringing this virus back home after their shift. The suggestion was referred to Lambton Public Health who have now made arrangements with local hotels to accommodate affected staff.

In order to protect public health, the City would like to remind members of the public to **not use** any of the playground equipment in our local parks because the equipment cannot be properly sanitized at this time. Signage is posted throughout our parks as a reminder of this requirement.

We would like to reassure members of the public that we are currently continuing to work with our emergency partners to develop enhanced communication protocols to ensure that members of the public continue to have access to the latest up to date information available. We would like to take this opportunity to reiterate that it remains imperative that you continue to obtain your information regarding COVID-19 from trusted governmental sources such as Lambton Public Health who can be contacted directly at the following coordinates:

- Telephone: (519) 383-8331; or
- Internet: <u>https://lambtonpublichealth.ca</u>

In order to better coordinate the city's response to this pandemic emergency, we would like to request that members of the public direct all inquiries to the City of Sarnia's emergency hotline at 1-877-4-SARNIA (1-877-472-7642) or visit our web site at <u>www.sarnia.ca</u> for updates on the latest information available.

To listen to a detailed listing of City of Sarnia closures and disruptions, you are encouraged to call our City of Sarnia Services Update Line at 226-778-4611 which will be updated daily.

The City will continue to monitor the situation and update the citizens of Sarnia as soon as information is available.

Lambton Public Health Information:

If you are experiencing symptoms and have traveled internationally, please call your health care provider or Lambton Public Health (519-383-8331) or https://lambtonpublichealth.ca/ (Please do not call 9-1-1 unless it is an emergency).

The Primary Control Group will continue to meet daily to ensure that all new and relevant information is being taken into consideration going forward. Daily public notifications will be issued. Please visit the City's website <u>www.sarnia.ca</u>, Facebook, and/or Twitter for updates.

Please continue to utilize the COVID-19 Hotline at 1-877-4-SARNIA (1-877-472-7642) and the City's website to keep up to date on any and all information pertaining to the city's current status.

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For further information, please contact:

City of Sarnia COVID-19 Hotline

1-877-4-SARNIA (1-877-472-7642) or 519-332-0932

Andrea Lane, Customer Service Manager andrea.lane@sarnia.ca or 519-332-0330 ext.3231

City of Sarnia, Customer Service <u>customerservice@sarnia.ca</u> or 519-332-0330 ext.3131