



"While I understand the frustration that some members of the community feel with what appears to be further restrictions on their activities by government, I can assure you that we would not be asking our community members to make these short term sacrifices if we did not believe that these temporary measures are absolutely necessary for the protection of our first responders and our community during these trying times."

Sarnia Police Chief Norm Hansen issued the following statement in support of the emergency measures currently in place:

"After a month of increasing restrictions, we are still faced with tough decisions to try to beat this pandemic. Your Fire Service is trying to do what they can to limit exposure of their staff and for people who would gather in excess of the Provincially mandated five persons. None of the restrictions that have been placed on us are enjoyable, but certainly are worth it if it can save a life. To Mayor Bradley and Chief Arnold, the Sarnia Police Service has your back. Thanks to all the citizens who are helping to beat Covid-19."

## **Transit**

Effective Monday, April 6<sup>th</sup>, Transit will begin operating a Saturday bus service during the week. This modified weekday bus schedule will still begin at 6:30 am. This change is being made due to a decline in ridership and current staffing shortages. No changes are being made to existing weekend bus service or start times.

The main differences between the regular weekday schedule and the Saturday schedule are:

- Route 9 Exmouth frequency reduction
- Routes 4/3 Wellington Maxwell are combined
- Route 6 Mitton does not operate
- Routes with increased frequency during peak hours have less frequency or, Peak-hour bus frequency on certain routes will be reduced
- Route 10 Vidal will continue to operate to provide travel to essential employment during the week.

Transit will also begin limiting the total number of passengers permitted on each bus, at one time, to ensure social distancing is achieved. Once the limit is reached operators will by-pass stops. Efforts will be made to accommodate passengers who are unable to board due to ridership limits as quickly as possible. Transit riders should be prepared to have to wait for the

next scheduled bus. Passengers are also encouraged to leave earlier to ensure they reach their essential trip destinations at their desired times.

Transit continues to operate as it is the only essential means of travel for many in our community. We again emphasize the critical importance of using transit only for essential trips. Essential travel trips are limited to attending essential employment and medical appointments, and to purchase groceries. With the need to limit the number of passengers on each bus, if you are using the Transit system for non-essential travel, you could be limiting another person's ability to access bus service who needs it for an essential purpose.

The City of Sarnia would like to remind the public that, based on the advice of the Chief Medical Officer of Health of Ontario, all outdoor facilities and their associated parking lots will remain closed until further notice including all of the following:

- sports fields, playgrounds, basketball and tennis courts, off-leash dog parks, beaches, skateboard and BMX parks, picnic areas, park shelters, outdoor exercise equipment, condo parks and community gardens.

Please note that people who do not comply with emergency orders issued under the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act may be charged under the Provincial Offenses Act and be subject to fines.

The advice of the Chief Medical Officer of Health Dr. Ranade remains that adopting safe hygiene practices such as physical distancing by keeping a safe distance of at least 2 metres from others and not gathering in groups of more than 5, regularly washing our hands, and not touching our faces will significantly help reduce the impact and spread of this pandemic.

We sincerely thank those who are taking the matter seriously. We acknowledge that this is a difficult and unusual time and ask that we all adhere to the recommended advice and orders related to the required safety measures and respect the closures, posted signage and barricades because these actions are the only things that will help us return to normal faster.

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:

Bluewater Health:

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

Lambton Public Health:

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

The City of Sarnia has established an Email and Hotline contact for members of the public to report their concerns regarding the COVID-19 Pandemic in the following ways, which will be monitored between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday:

- **By Email:** [covid@sarnia.ca](mailto:covid@sarnia.ca)
- **By Phone:** 1-877-4-SARNIA (1-877-472-7642) or 519-332-0330

Be sure to include as much detail as available to you when you report an event including your name, the date of the incident, the non-compliance event, time and location when making a report.

Please note calls or emails from those outside the City of Sarnia should be directed to the resident's local municipal office.

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 self-isolate and then use [Ontario's Self-Assessment Tool](#) to see if you need to seek further care.

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.

### **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 [www.sarnia.ca](http://www.sarnia.ca), Facebook, and/or Twitter for updates.

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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

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City of Sarnia, Customer Service

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