



City of Sarnia

MEDIA RELEASE

DATE: April 12, 2020 RELEASE DATE: Immediate

FROM: City of Sarnia Primary Control Group

SUBJECT: COVID-19 Update – April 12

The Emergency Managers from the City of Sarnia, Lambton Public Health, Lambton County and Bluewater Health met electronically on April 12, 2020 at 9:00 am regarding developments related to the COVID-19 pandemic. We received confirmation that, as of that time, the number of deaths connected to the COVID-19 pandemic within Sarnia-Lambton remains at 10 and that there are now 115 confirmed cases within this area.

We would like to remind the public that, under Ontario Regulation 104/20 issued under the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act, all outdoor sports facilities, such as the St. Patrick's track field, are required to be closed and that the use of these outdoor facilities remains strictly prohibited. Anyone found to be in violation of the emergency orders will be charged and will face significant fines.

Sarnia Police Chief Norm Hansen is reminding people this long weekend to keep physical distancing in mind, and avoid large groups:

"I can tell you from my own experience Easter is a holiday that we always get together with extended family probably up to 15 or 20 people," said Hansen. "We're not doing that this year, we're staying home and that's just the way it is. I hope people obey this and listen, and you never hear me say this but I'm also hoping for bad weather." Lambton Medical Officer of Health Dr. Sudit Ranade said this is not the time to gather with extended family, and urged everyone to follow physical distancing rules.

Canada's Chief Public Health Officer Dr. Theresa Tam has said that people should have holiday dinners and celebrations with household members only, and connect with others via phone or video-chat.

The City of Sarnia and Sarnia Police Services will collaborate over the coming long weekend to coordinate the continued enforcement of these orders and directives and those who are found to violate these risk having charges laid against them.

In light of the long weekend, Sarnia transit services would like to remind their users that transit services will be suspended on Good Friday, April 10, 2020 and on Easter Sunday, April 12, 2020 and that Saturday services will be maintained on other days throughout this pandemic emergency.

Please note that the City is following directions received from the Province of Ontario, which does not mandate the closure of boat launches at this time, and will keep the boat launch located at Centennial Park open. We will continue to monitor compliance with the legal requirements that all users of the launch platforms continue to respect physical distancing guidelines, and the use will be restricted to use by inhabitants of one household at a time, before reassessing whether to keep this boat launch open.

We remind you that the City of Sarnia has established an Email and telephone Hotline contact for members of the public to report their concerns regarding people who do not comply with the directives and orders that were adopted to stop the COVID-19 pandemic. The time for education is now over and you can contact the City in the following ways to report activities that violate the directives and orders that have been adopted for our collection protection:

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

The hotline will be monitored between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday. Please be sure to include as much detail as available to you when you report an activity so that we may properly investigate including your name, the date of the incident, the non-compliance event, time and location when making a report.

We would like to remind the public that Transit is now operating a Saturday bus service during the week:

- 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.

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.

The advice of Lambton County's 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.

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/>

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, 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

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