



City of Sarnia

MEDIA RELEASE

DATE: April 14, 2020 RELEASE DATE: Immediate

FROM: City of Sarnia Primary Control Group

SUBJECT: COVID-19 Update – April 14

The Sarnia Primary Control Group met via teleconference on April 14, 2020 at 9:00am regarding developments related to the COVID-19 pandemic, and as of that time, there are now 119 confirmed cases within this area. Subsequent to the meeting via Bluewater Health we received confirmation that as of 10:30am the number of deaths connected to the COVID-19 pandemic within the Sarnia-Lambton area has risen to 11.

As of April 11, 2020, the Province of Ontario has extended the State of Emergency ensuring that all emergency orders issued by the Province that are currently in effect will remain in effect until April 23, 2020.

Please note that the City of Sarnia has now made the hard decision to include the boat launch located at Sarnia Bay in Centennial Park to the list of outdoor amenity closures, which will be closed as of 10:00 PM on Tuesday, April 14, 2020. Signage will be posted on site to advise community members of the change in status for the boat launch, and specifically to users of the site, throughout the day.

We also want to take this opportunity to thank all community members for the great sacrifices they were asked to make over the Easter long weekend to stop the spread of COVID-19 and confirm that the City had great success with the COVID-19 reporting hotline. By continuing to work together through these difficult times, we will stop the spread of COVID-19.

The City of Sarnia By-Law Enforcement received the following complaints and concerns lodged through the COVID-19 reporting system from April 1-13, 2020:

- Total number of complaints received: 433
- Total number of emails received: 380
- Total number of phone calls received: 53
- Emails received over long weekend from April 10 to April 13: 75

Please note the above numbers do not include calls that were received through the Sarnia Police Services and dispatched to By-Law Staff or investigated by the Sarnia Police Services.

COVID-19 Community Concerns:

The service allows the public to file anonymous concerns or provide tips relating to businesses or individuals who may be in violation of Provincial Orders regarding a range of COVID-19 concerns, including:

- Physical distancing relating to private property;
- Non-essential businesses operating in contravention of Provincial Orders;
- Individuals returning to Ontario from outside the Country that are failing to follow Quarantine or self-isolation measures;
- Businesses not taking the advice, recommendations and instructions of public health officials regarding physical distancing, cleaning or disinfecting; and/or
- Individuals and families using park spaces and trails throughout the City.

Contact Us:

The COVID-19 email reporting service is monitored daily including nights and weekends to provide the best available response to public concerns and we continue to encourage residents to email us at covid@sarnia.ca

The phone line is available Monday to Friday, excluding holidays, from 8:30am – 4:30pm and all messages received after hours are cleared the next business day. The number is 1-877-4-SARNIA (1-877-472-7642).

Key Reminders:

- Physical distancing measures by keeping a safe distance of at least 2 metres from others are recommended by the Chief Medical Officer of Health and are only enforceable where there are social gatherings of more than 5 people in a public or private place. This does not apply to a gathering of members of a single household;

- Physical distancing is an essential way to slow down the spread of COVID-19. It's important that we all continue to follow the physical distancing recommendations of The Chief Medical Officer of Health, whether you're in one of the high-risk groups or not;
- Adopting safe hygiene practices such as regularly washing our hands, and not touching our faces will significantly help reduce the impact and spread of this pandemic; and
- The Provincial Order does not preclude individuals from walking through or using portions of park and recreational areas that are not otherwise closed and that do not contain outdoor recreational amenities including; 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.

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.

The City of Sarnia and Sarnia Police Services will continue to enforce these orders and directives and those who are found to violate these risk having charges laid against them.

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.

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

Andrea Lane, Customer Service Manager

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City of Sarnia, Customer Service

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