



City of Sarnia

MEDIA RELEASE

DATE: May 1, 2020 RELEASE DATE: Immediate
FROM: City of Sarnia Primary Control Group
SUBJECT: COVID-19 Update – May 1

The Sarnia Primary Control Group met via teleconference on May 1, 2020, at 9:15 am regarding developments related to the COVID-19 pandemic and, as of that time, received confirmation that the number of deaths connected to the COVID-19 pandemic within the Sarnia-Lambton area remains at 14 and the number of confirmed cases has risen to 183. Currently, there remains 3 institutional outbreaks declared in Sarnia with Sumac Lodge, Vision Nursing Home and Landmark Village having declared outbreaks.

Given the Premier of Ontario and County of Lambton Medical Officer of Health's recommendation that the City stay the course in order to prevent a second wave of Novel Coronavirus infections that can overwhelm our community, the Primary Control Group, in consultation with the Sarnia Fire Chief, has recommended that the current restrictions on recreational open fires remain in effect until May 31th 2020, pending the implementation of Phase 1 of the Government of Ontario's plan to re-open the economy.

With Emergency Order No. 1 set to expire on May 3rd 2020, Mayor Mike Bradley signed and issued Emergency Order No. 2 on May 1, 2020 that will maintain current restrictions on recreational open fires while allowing for the issuance of rural burn permits to better respond to the agricultural sector's needs and support farming operations within our community who have a need to clear brush.

As a result of Covid-19 restrictions, please note that City facilities, sports fields, organized programming, picnic rentals and other amenities shall remain closed until July 3rd 2020. The timing for the reopening of these facilities and activities will be re-evaluated the second week of June 2020 to align with any announcement by the Government of Ontario of their directives related to social distancing guidelines and public gatherings.

Please note also that the City of Sarnia's Parks and Recreation department has been networking with an Ontario Municipal Event Planner Group, comprising of over 60 municipalities, as each municipality deals with decisions on the cancellation of Canada Day festivities due to Covid-19. As a result of these collaborative discussions, and in consultation with local and provincial health officials, we confirm that the Sarnia Canada Day festivities and annual fireworks display is cancelled for 2020.

The City Compost Site is scheduled to open Monday, May 4, 2020. Hours of operation will be 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Monday to Friday. The compost site will not be open Saturdays, until further notice.

Please note residents can expect possible delays at the site due to limited access at gates. Acceptable items for drop off will include yard waste, grass clippings, and brush. Yard waste and grass clipping drop off will be free as usual. Brush drop off fees will be temporarily waived. We encourage residents to utilize the curbside brush collection scheduled the week of May 18, 2020. Mulch, wood chips, and compost sales are temporarily suspended. A new payment system is being developed and details will be announced shortly.

The City has had great success with the COVID-19 reporting hotline, and by continuing to work together through these difficult times, we will stop the spread of COVID-19. By-Law Enforcement has received the following number of complaints and concerns lodged through the COVID-19 reporting system to date:

- Total number of complaints received: 762
- Total number of emails received: 637
- Total number of phone calls received: 125
- Total number of charges laid: 4

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.

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).

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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