



City of Sarnia

MEDIA RELEASE

DATE: May 24, 2020 RELEASE DATE: Immediate

FROM: City of Sarnia Primary Control Group

SUBJECT: COVID-19 Update – May 24

The Sarnia Primary Control Group (SPCG) met via teleconference on May 24, 2020, at 9:00 am regarding developments related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The City of Sarnia encourages the community to get outdoors and enjoy the beautiful parks, beaches and trails the City has to offer, however it remains imperative that citizens do not treat these spaces as destinations and avoid congregating or gatherings. To that end, City Bylaw Enforcement and Sarnia Police Service will be increasing its foot and bike patrols along the beach front park amenities.

Mayor Mike Bradley echoed the comments of other Mayors throughout Ontario in stating, "Our medical professionals are working day and night and putting their lives at risk for the protection of our community and all citizens. Disobeying Provincial laws and guidelines which are for the protection of us all, undermines the months of sacrifices made by everyone. The Primary Control Group monitors daily the respect and compliance by the public of the Provincial Orders. No one wants to close the very amenities that we all wish to now responsibly enjoy, however there are a few that lack compliance. Don't abuse it or lose it."

It is also extremely important to keep in mind the Provincial orders and directives that remain in place, which state restrictions on social gatherings of more than five people.

The City is receiving an increase in concerns and complaints regarding non-compliance with respect to the above noted directives. It remains imperative that all citizens act responsibly. We appreciate everyone's

efforts, and together we must continue to do our part in limiting the spread of COVID -19 in our community.

City Council has made some difficult and fiscally responsible decisions to date, including but not limited to delaying or cancelling non-essential projects and not hire summer students and seasonal staff. As a result, some seasonal programs may be cancelled and/or not operating as usual. City staff continue to work hard to maintain public spaces and amenities to the best of our abilities with limited resources.

As of 9:00 a.m. on May 24 the SPCG can report that:

Summary of COVID-19 cases in Lambton County

Confirmed Cases	247
Recovered Cases	175
Number of Related Deaths	20
Current Active Long Term Care and Retirement Home Outbreaks	3
Resolved Long Term Care and Retirement Home Outbreaks	3

By-Law Enforcement COVID-19 Reporting System

Total number of complaints and inquiries received	981
Total number of emails received	813
Total number of phone calls received	168
Total number of fines issued	5

Lambton Public Health

- If you are in distress (e.g. significant trouble breathing, chest pain, fainting, or have a significant worsening of any chronic disease symptoms), do not go to an Assessment Centre. Call 9-1-1 or go to the nearest Emergency Department.
- If you think you may have COVID-19 symptoms or have been in close contact with someone who has symptoms, please self-isolate and use the [Ontario Self-Assessment Tool](#) to determine if you need to seek further care.

Provincial Orders

The Government of Ontario has extended the [Declaration of Emergency](#) under the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act* until June 2, 2020.

The Government of Ontario has extended all [Emergency Orders](#) currently in place until May 29, 2020.

The Sarnia 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.

- 30 -

For further information, please contact:

City of Sarnia COVID-19 Hotline

covid@sarnia.ca or 1-877-4-SARNIA (1-877-472-7642) or 519-332-0932

City of Sarnia, Customer Service

customerservice@sarnia.ca or 519-332-0330 ext.3131