*City of Sarnia*

***MEDIA RELEASE***

Date: May 25, 2020 Release Date: Immediate

From: City of Sarnia Primary Control Group

Subject: COVID-19 Update – May 25

The Sarnia Primary Control Group (SPCG) met via teleconference on May 25, 2020, at 9:15 am regarding developments related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

With the warm weather upon us, the City of Sarnia recognizes the mental and physical heath benefits of being outside using local trails, parks and beaches.

City of Sarnia By-Law Staff have increased their presence within trails, parks and beaches to educate the public on the serious threat of COVID-19 and how citizens can best prevent the spread of the virus.

Citizens must abide by [Provincial orders and directives](https://news.ontario.ca/opo/en/2020/05/ontario-extends-emergency-orders-to-keep-people-safe.html) that remain in place, which state restrictions on physical gatherings of more than five people. Do not overcrowd spaces, and maintain physical distancing. Taking personal responsibility for your health and others around you is paramount.

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 hiring 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 their abilities with limited resources. While parks, beaches and trails are permitted for use by the public, washrooms, garbage receptacles and park maintenance are limited, at this point in time.

Two park washrooms are open to the public, 8:00am – 3:30pm, seven days a week. One is located near the Children’s Animal Farm within Canatara Park, and the other is located next to the Suncor Agora Stage located in Centennial Park.

As of 9:15 a.m. on May 25 the SPCG can report that:

# [**Summary of COVID-19 cases in Lambton County**](https://lambtonpublichealth.ca/2019-novel-coronavirus/summary-of-covid-19-cases-in-lambton-county/)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Confirmed Cases | 248 |
| Recovered Cases | 177 |
| Number of Related Deaths | 21 |
| 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 | 987 |
| Total number of emails received | 819 |
| 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](https://covid-19.ontario.ca/self-assessment/#q0) to determine if you need to seek further care.

# **Provincial Orders**

The Government of Ontario has extended the [Declaration of Emergency](https://news.ontario.ca/opo/en/2020/05/declaration-of-emergency-extended-while-ontario-gradually-reopens-the-economy.html) under the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act until June 2, 2020.

The Government of Ontario has extended all [Emergency Orders](https://news.ontario.ca/opo/en/2020/05/ontario-extends-emergency-orders-to-keep-people-safe.html) 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](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**

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