



City of Sarnia

MEDIA RELEASE

DATE: July 20, 2020 RELEASE DATE: Immediate

FROM: City of Sarnia Primary Control Group

SUBJECT: COVID-19 Update – July 20

The Sarnia Primary Control Group (SPCG) met via teleconference on July 20, 2020, at 9:30 a.m. regarding developments related to the COVID-19.

In consultation with the Chief Medical Officer of Health, the Government of Ontario has confirmed that effective Friday July 24, 2020 at 12:01 a.m., Sarnia-Lambton will be permitted to move into Stage 3 of <u>A Framework for Reopening our Province</u>.

The announcement that we are approved to move into Stage 3 of the Province's Reopening framework is good news for our community's economy, as more businesses/services can prepare to reopen. The City wishes to acknowledge the hard work and sacrifice of our residents in reaching this milestone and keeping our city's COVID-19 rate of transmission low to date.

With more people moving about the community, City services will resume as follows:

- Municipal buildings, including City Hall, Public Works, and the Transit office effective July 27, 2020.
- Sarnia Transit will move to Saturday level transit service on weekdays effective Tuesday, August 4, 2020.
- Full reinstatement of transit service effective Sunday, September 6, 2020.

The City of Sarnia remains committed to ensuring the health and safety of all residents by implementing preventative measures and public health best practices to reduce the risk of COVID-19 community spread.

Part of the Reopening Sarnia plan outlines the health and safety measures that help keep both residents and employees safe in our public spaces as we reopen. These measures include:

- Ensuring employees and customers maintain a distance of at least two meters
- Restricting the number of customers allowed to enter facilities
- Encouraging the use of masks in indoor public spaces
- Recommending the use of good hand hygiene through hand sanitizer and encouraging hand washing in all washrooms
- Having staff only and public only entrances/exits to buildings
- Ensuring public spaces, especially high touch areas, are thoroughly cleaned and disinfected regularly
- Use of signage and floor stickers to direct the flow of traffic
- Restricting all services to Customer Service on the main floor of City Hall or within specific areas within facilities
- Encouraging all employees and customers to not enter indoor public facilities if they are experiencing fever, worsening cough, difficulty breathing or in close contact with someone diagnosed with COVID-19
- Installing barriers between employees and customers to ensure proper distancing and safety
- Continuing to encourage the use of other forms of receiving service such as phone, email, online resources, or by booking appointments

As of 9:30 a.m. on July 20 the SPCG can report that:

Summary of COVID-19 cases in Lambton County

| Test Results Received (as per last available daily update) | 15,152 |
|--|--------|
| Percent of Test Results Positive | 1.9% |
| Confirmed Cases | 290 |
| Recovered Cases | 260 |
| Number of Related Deaths | 25 |
| Active Cases | 2 |
| Current Active Outbreaks | 0 |
| Resolved Outbreaks | 9 |

By-Law Enforcement COVID-19 Reporting System

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| Total number of complaints and inquiries received | 1,218 |
| Total number of emails received | 1,001 |
| Total number of phone calls received | 217 |
| Total number of fines issued | 5 |

Lambton Public Health

- If you are in distress 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 <u>Ontario Self-Assessment Tool</u> to determine if you need to seek further care.
- Local COVID-19 testing information is available online: https://lambtonpublichealth.ca/2019-novel-coronavirus/testing-criteria/
- To view detailed reports of COVID-19 cases in Lambton County visit: https://lambtonpublichealth.ca/2019-novel-coronavirus/summary-of-covid-19-cases-in-lambton-county/

Provincial

Nearly all businesses and public spaces will be able to gradually reopen in Stage 3 including, indoor dining at bars and restaurants, concession stands, gyms, movie theatres and other entertainment venues.

Gathering limits will increase from 10 to a maximum of 50 people indoors and a maximum of 100 people outdoors, with physical distancing and other health and safety measures in place. Gathering limits apply to all social gatherings and events, as well as some higher risk activities and venues. Gathering limits do not apply to settings such as beaches, parks, restaurants and bars, but measures to enable physical distancing may limit capacity at any given time.

Please visit the link below for further details surrounding Stage 3: https://www.ontario.ca/page/framework-reopening-our-province-stage-3

The Government of Ontario has extended the <u>Declaration of Emergency</u> currently in force under s.7.0.2 (4) of the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act* until July 24, 2020.

The Government of Ontario, has <u>extended all emergency orders</u> currently in place under s.7.0.2 (4) of the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act* until July 29, 2020.

A full list of emergency orders can be found on the <u>e-Laws website</u> under the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act* and at <u>Ontario.ca/alert.</u>

Throughout the pandemic, stay up to date with the City's latest response efforts by frequently checking https://www.sarnia.ca/covid-19/. Please visit

the City's website $\underline{www.sarnia.ca}$, $\underline{Facebook}$, and/or $\underline{Twitter}$ for additional 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