



*City of Sarnia*

***MEDIA RELEASE***

DATE: February 2, 2021 RELEASE DATE: Immediate

FROM: City of Sarnia Primary Control Group

SUBJECT: COVID-19 Update

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The Sarnia Primary Control Group (SPCG) met electronically with staff from Lambton Public Health (LPH), Lambton County, Bluewater Health, and Point Edward regarding developments related to COVID-19.

The group received an update from Lambton County's Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Ranade, regarding the COVID-19 situation in Sarnia-Lambton and discussed the immunization process for vaccines locally. More information on vaccines is available at [www.getthevaccine.ca](http://www.getthevaccine.ca).

Seniors, people with disabilities, and others in need of assistance, including mental health supports and meals delivered can connect to essential services in their community by dialing 211 or visiting [www.211ontario.ca](http://www.211ontario.ca). Services are available 7 days a week in over 150 languages.

The City of Sarnia encourages the use of park spaces including trails, and playgrounds, however we remind the public to take extra caution as parks are not maintained or monitored for winter activities such as tobogganing, skiing, snowboarding or skating. If you choose to participate in these activities, use at your own risk. Know the dangers of ice and check hills for hazards. Please enjoy our beautiful park spaces while maintaining physical distance with those outside of your household.

Before tobogganing check the hill to make sure it is free of hazards such as trees, rocks, fences and bumps. Choose a hill with a gentle slope and make sure that there is enough room to stop away from roads, or bodies of water.

- Only toboggan with members of the same household.
- Maintain six feet, 2 metres at all times from others.
- It is recommended that users wear a mask when tobogganing.

- Take extra caution around lakes, rivers, streams and storm water ponds.

Residents are reminded to take caution around local bodies of water such as Lake Chipican, and storm water ponds. Although ice may appear thick enough to venture out on, it may not be. Use extreme caution around all bodies of water and remind children to not play in the area.

There are a number of storm water ponds throughout the City, in residential areas the main sites are two in the Heritage Park subdivision, Twin Lakes, Blackwell Glen, and by the Suncor Nature Trail which store and treats rainwater. These are designed to prevent flooding, erosion and improve the quality of water before it is gradually released back into the nearest stream or river. They are not intended for recreational activities.

The ponds may look safe, but it's what's below the surface that makes them different from regular ponds. As a result, water flow and ice thickness can fluctuate quickly without warning. Ice conditions are not monitored or maintained by the City.

### **Provincial Update:**

The Ontario government extended the declared provincial emergency and all orders currently in force under the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act* (EMPCA) until February 9, 2021, unless extended further. This includes the stay-at-home order. As the Provincewide shutdown continues to be in effect, the COVID-19 Response Framework has been paused.

Individuals are required to wear a mask or face covering in the indoor areas of businesses or organizations that are open. Additionally, a mask is now recommended outdoors when physical distancing of two metres is not possible.

Local businesses who have questions surrounding the impact of Provincial regulations are encouraged to visit the COVID-19 workplace section of the LPH website to access [resources](#) and a [web form](#) to submit questions, or call the "[Stop the Spread](#)" [business information line](#) at 1-888-444-3659.

### **Federal Update:**

The Government of Canada has introduced further restrictions on international travel. For more information please visit: <https://www.canada.ca/en/transport-canada/news/2021/01/government-of-canada-introduces-further-restrictions-on-international-travel.html>

For more information on COVID-19, visit:

- City of Sarnia website: <https://www.sarnia.ca/covid-19/>
- Facility closures and a list of financial supports and resources are listed on the Lambton County website: <https://www.lambtononline.ca/en/resident-services/covid-19.aspx>
- Lambton Public Health website, including local COVID-19 Testing Assessment Centres: <https://lambtonpublichealth.ca> and [COVID-19 Case Map](#)
- Public Health Ontario website: <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/>
- Province of Ontario website: [www.ontario.ca/coronavirus](http://www.ontario.ca/coronavirus)
- Visit Ontario's COVID-19 vaccine [web page](#) to view the latest provincial data and information on COVID-19 vaccines.
- Government of Canada website: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/coronavirus-disease-covid-19.html>

As of 11:30 a.m. on February 2 the SPCG can report that:

### **Summary of COVID-19 cases in Lambton County**

Confirmed Cases	1,845
Resolved Cases	1,739
Deaths	38
Active Cases	68
Current Active Outbreaks	7
Incidence Rate per 100,000 - Week of January 17-23, 2021	102
Percent Positive - Week of January 17-23, 2021	2.3

### **By-Law Enforcement COVID-19 Reporting System**

Total number of complaints and inquiries received	1,654
Total number of emails received	1,399
Total number of phone calls received	255
Total number of fines issued	5

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**For further information, please contact:**

**City of Sarnia, Customer Service**

[customerservice@sarnia.ca](mailto:customerservice@sarnia.ca) or 519-332-0330 Ext. 3131