



*City of Sarnia*

**MEDIA RELEASE**

DATE: March 16, 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), Bluewater Health, and Point Edward regarding developments related to COVID-19.

**Local Update:**

The group received an update from Dr. Ranade, Medical Officer of Health for Lambton County. LPH is reporting that, currently, a total of thirty-two cases of COVID-19 in Lambton County have screened positive for a Variant of Concern (VOC).

As cases in the community continue to rise at an alarming rate, the decision was made by the province for this lockdown to limit the spread of COVID-19 in the community. We must also remember our local businesses and restaurants – please shop local and get take-out to support our small business.

The City of Sarnia is part of Lambton Public Health Unit, and the Province decides what level of the framework applies. For more details on roles and responsibilities regarding the pandemic visit:

<https://www.sarnia.ca/app/uploads/2021/03/COVID-19-Roles-and-Responsibilities-Vaccine-Info-March-16-2021.pdf>

While we move into the province's grey-lockdown zone, our approach is to continue to provide services where we are able and where not restricted by the Province. As always, our highest priority is the health and safety of employees, residents and anyone who uses City facilities and services.

Residents are reminded that all City facilities operate under strict health and safety measures which must be adhered to, to limit the spread of COVID-19

and for the safety of facility patrons and City staff. Due to the rapidly changing nature of the pandemic, services are subject to ongoing assessment and potential change.

Always stay home if you have symptoms, physically distance by staying two metres apart from people you don't live with, wear a mask or face covering in indoor public spaces and avoid non-essential travel.

## **Provincial Update**

The Province's new online booking system is now live. Individuals who are 80 years of age and older may now book their vaccine appointments. If you are currently eligible, please book your appointment here online at [Ontario.ca/bookvaccine](https://ontario.ca/bookvaccine) or call 1-888-999-6488. Learn more about [Ontario's COVID-19 vaccination program](#) on the LPH website [www.getthevaccine.ca](http://www.getthevaccine.ca).

On the advice of the Chief Medical Officer of Health, the Ontario Government activated the "emergency brake" for Sarnia-Lambton. Effective March 15, 2021, Sarnia-Lambton moved into the Grey-Lockdown zone of the Province's COVID-19 response framework.

The Grey-Lockdown status is considered a declaration of emergency. Maximum measures are in place to implement wide-scale measures and restrictions, including closures, to halt or interrupt transmission of COVID-19. Full details can be found under the [COVID-19 Response Framework](#) and [O. Reg. 82/20](#): Grey-Lockdown.

New to Grey-Lockdown as of February 2021:

- In person shopping permitted for all retail, subject to capacity limits of:
  - 50% for supermarkets and other stores that primarily sell groceries, convenience stores and pharmacies
  - 25% for all other retail, including discount and big box retailers, liquor stores, cannabis stores, hardware stores and garden centres
- Curbside pick-up and delivery permitted
- Stores must post capacity limit publicly
- Stores must have passive screening for patrons (for example, posting signs outside the store front about not entering if you have COVID-19 symptoms)

- This does not apply to indoor malls, which are required to actively screen their customers before they enter the mall. Malls can use the [patron screening tool](#) to help meet this requirement.
- Individuals must physically distance and wear a face covering, with some exceptions
- No loitering in shopping malls, and stores within the malls subject to appropriate retail measures

For the latest City information and service updates during the pandemic visit: <https://www.sarnia.ca/covid-19/>

For public health information, visit:

- [www.ontario.ca/coronavirus](http://www.ontario.ca/coronavirus) - the Ontario Ministry of Health
- <https://lambtonpublichealth.ca> - the Lambton Public Health Unit

As of 11:30 a.m. on March 16 the SPCG can report that:

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

Confirmed Cases	2,431
Resolved Cases	2,209
Deaths	47
Active Cases	175
Current Active Outbreaks	10
Incidence Rate per 100,000 - Week of February 28-March 6, 2021	102
Percent Positive - Week of February 14-February 20, 2021	3.1
Total immunizations given - March 10, 2021	8,845
First Dose - March 10, 2021	8,138
Second Dose - March 10, 2021	707

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

Total number of complaints and inquiries received	1,764
Total number of emails received	1,484
Total number of phone calls received	280
Total number of charges issued	10

**For further information, please contact:**

**City of Sarnia, Customer Service**  
[customerservice@sarnia.ca](mailto:customerservice@sarnia.ca) or 519-332-0330 Ext. 3131