



City of Sarnia

MEDIA RELEASE

DATE:March 30, 2021RELEASE DATE:ImmediateFROM:City of Sarnia Primary Control GroupSUBJECT:COVID-19 Update

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 the County of Lambton. LPH is reporting that, currently, a total of ninetynine cases of COVID-19 in Lambton County have screened positive for a Variant of Concern (VOC).

The Province of Ontario has opened registration for individuals who are 70-74 years of age (or who are turning 70 in 2021).

LPH has also opened pre-registration for some Phase 2 groups (essential frontline workers who cannot work from home) including:

- Elementary and Secondary School Staff
- Childcare and Licensed Foster Care Workers
- Faith Leaders who provide end of life care, funerals, home visits to the ill, visits in hospital or long-term care
- Police, fire, Compliance, Funeral, Special Constables and other workers responding to critical events
- Enforcement, Inspection and Compliance Roles (includes By-Law Enforcement, Building Inspectors, Food Inspectors, Animal Welfare Inspectors, Border Inspection Officers, Labour Inspectors)
- Food Manufacturing Workers
- Agricultural and Farm Workers

Pre-registration is also continuing for the following:

- Healthcare workers (identified in Phase 1)
- Adult recipients of Chronic Home Care
- Urban Indigenous Adults

Full details regarding eligibility and registration are provided on the LPH website's vaccination registration page. Eligible individuals who pre-register will receive an email invitation to schedule an immunization appointment directly from the Ontario booking system – please allow 48-72 hours to receive your invitation.

If you are part of these eligible groups and would like to book an appointment, please book your appointment online at <u>Ontario.ca/bookvaccine</u> or call 1-888-999-6488.

Learn more about <u>Ontario's COVID-19 vaccination program</u> on the LPH website <u>www.getthevaccine.ca</u>. Lambton County's fixed site clinic locations are operating by appointment only.

Provincial Update

Applications for the Ontario Small business Support Grant and Main Street Relief Grant are open until March 31, 2021. To find out if your business is eligible for grants to help with the cost of personal protective equipment, property taxes, energy bills and extra support if you have to close or significantly restrict services because of provincial public health measures visit: <u>https://www.ontario.ca/page/businesses-get-help-covid-19-costs</u>.

To further support businesses and promote fitness during the pandemic, the government is making limited, targeted adjustments to public health and workplace safety measures in the Grey-Lockdown level of the Framework, allowing the safe resumption of select activities where the risk of COVID-19 transmission can be minimized. This includes:

- Effective Monday, March 29, 2021, permitting outdoor fitness classes, outdoor training for team and individual sports and outdoor personal training, subject to public health and workplace safety measures, including, but not limited to: a maximum of 10 patrons, every person maintaining a physical distance of at least three metres from another person, requiring a reservation and active patron screening.
- Effective Monday, March 29, 2021, permitting marinas and boating clubs to operate clubhouses or any restaurant, bar and other food or

drink establishment for outdoor dining, subject to public health and workplace safety measures.

Effective Monday, April 12, 2021 at 12:01 a.m., personal care service settings including but not limited to barber shops, hair and nail salons, and body art establishments, will be permitted to operate at 25 per cent capacity or five patrons (whichever is less) subject to physical distancing, including by appointment only, and other public health and workplace safety measures.

The province is also modifying outdoor capacity limits for <u>weddings</u>, <u>funerals</u>, <u>and religious services</u>, <u>rites or ceremonies</u> held in regions in all levels of the Framework. Effective Monday, March 29, 2021, capacity limits for weddings, funerals, and religious services, rites or ceremonies, will be adjusted to allow for the number of individuals that can maintain two metres of physical distance. This change does not apply to social gatherings associated with these services, such as receptions.

Sarnia-Lambton remains in 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 <u>COVID-19</u> Response Framework: https://www.ontario.ca/page/covid-19-response-framework-keeping-ontario-safe-and-open#grey and <u>O. Reg. 82/20</u>: Grey-Lockdown.

Businesses with questions about what will be open or impacts to your business or employment, can call the Provincial Stop the Spread Business Information Line at 1-888-444-3659.

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

For public health information, visit:

- <u>www.ontario.ca/coronavirus</u> the Ontario Ministry of Health
- <u>https://lambtonpublichealth.ca</u> the Lambton Public Health Unit

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

Summary of COVID-19 cases in Lambton County

Confirmed Cases	2,822
Resolved Cases	2,585
Deaths	50
Active Cases	187
Current Active Outbreaks	13
Incidence Rate per 100,000 - Week of March 14-March 20, 2021	160
Percent Positive - Week of March 14-March 20, 2021	3.7
Total immunizations given – As of March 24, 2021	16,454
First Dose	14,910
Second Dose	1,544
% Eligible with \geq 1 Dose	14

By-Law Enforcement COVID-19 Reporting System

Total number of complaints and inquiries received	1,834
Total number of emails received	1,542
Total number of phone calls received	292
Total number of charges issued	11

- 30 -

For further information, please contact:

City of Sarnia, Customer Service

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