



City of Sarnia

MEDIA RELEASE

DATE: April 17, 2021 RELEASE DATE: Immediate
FROM: City of Sarnia Primary Control Group
SUBJECT: COVID-19 Update

The Sarnia Primary Control Group (SPCG) met electronically to discuss developments related to COVID-19.

Local Update

In compliance with [O. Reg. 82/20](#), each person responsible for a business or organization that is open shall ensure that any person who performs work for the business or organization conducts their work remotely, unless the nature of their work requires them to be on-site at the workplace.

If you're a business owner and have questions about closures and essential workplaces during the COVID-19 outbreak, call Ontario's Stop the Spread Business Information Line at [1-888-444-3659](tel:1-888-444-3659).

You can take actions to help stop the spread: <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/>

The Sarnia Police Service has issued the following Statement:

The Ontario Provincial Government announced new Provincial Enforcement Measures to support Ontario Public Health Orders regarding the surge in the number of people infected by COVID-19 and its variant that is occurring across the Province.

The Sarnia Police Service will continue in its efforts to educate and warn the public regarding measures that have been regulated by the Provincial Government to ensure the health and safety of the community. Ultimately, enforcement maybe required when all other measures have failed and violations under the Re-Opening Act of Ontario and the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act (EMCPA) continue to exist.

At this time, the Sarnia Police Service has no intention of randomly stopping pedestrians or motor vehicles in relation to these Acts but rather will continue its enforcement based on either observed violations or complaints that have been generated by the public.

We truly understand the frustration that the virus and these measures are causing but also realize it is the responsibility of everyone in the community to ensure the safety and well-being of others. Our intention is to use any authority granted in a measured and fair approach with education and warnings as our primary goal. Enforcement will be implemented when all else fails.

We will continue to keep the community updated as these new regulations unfold.

The Sarnia Fire Service has issued the following Statement:

Due to increased Provincial COVID-19 restrictions, Sarnia Fire Rescue Services wants to assure the residents of Sarnia, there are no fire bans in place for backyard recreational burning. As a reminder, this can only take place while recognizing all COVID-19 precautions such as limiting the gathering to acceptable numbers within the same household. The [Recreational Burning Checklist](#) clearly defines parameters for acceptable fires under the Burning By-Law.

Provincial Update

Effective today, the Ontario government, in consultation with the Chief Medical Officer of Health and other health experts, is [strengthening enforcement of the province's Stay-at-Home order](#) while imposing new travel restrictions and further strengthening public health measures. These urgent actions are targeted at stopping the rapid growth in COVID-19 case rates and relieving mounting pressures on the province's health care system.

Both the provincial declaration of emergency and the Stay-at-Home order ([O.Reg 265/21](#)) have been extended for an additional two weeks to help stop the spread of COVID-19. The Stay-at-Home order currently in effect requires everyone to remain at home except for specified purposes, such as going to the grocery store or pharmacy, accessing health care services (including getting vaccinated), for outdoor exercise, or for work that cannot be done remotely.

In order to limit the transmission of the variants of concern, the government is also restricting travel into Ontario from the provinces of Manitoba and

Quebec with the exception of purposes such as work, health care services, transportation and delivery of goods and services, exercising Aboriginal or treaty rights, or going to a primary residence in Ontario.

Read all the [permitted reasons to travel into Ontario from Manitoba or Quebec](#).

The Ontario government has implemented the following public health and workplace safety measures:

- All outdoor social gatherings and organized public events are prohibited, except for with members of the same household or one other person from outside that household who lives alone or a caregiver for any member of the household;
- All non-essential workplaces in the construction sector are closed;
- Capacity limits are reduced to 25 per cent in all retail settings where in-store shopping is permitted. This includes supermarkets, grocery stores, convenience stores, indoor farmers' markets, other stores that primarily sell food and pharmacies;
- All outdoor recreational amenities, such as golf courses, basketball courts, soccer fields, and playgrounds are closed;
- Parks remain open for use by members of their own household, citizens can sit on benches and walk-through paths for passive use, dog parks are open and,
- Boat and Kayak Launches remain open but are prohibited for recreational purposes of any kind.

In addition, effective Monday, April 19, 2021, the government is limiting the capacity of weddings, funerals, and religious services, rites or ceremonies to 10 people indoors or outdoors. Social gatherings associated with these services such as receptions are prohibited, except for with members of the same household or one other person from outside that household who lives alone. Drive-in services will be permitted.

The [COVID-19 Response Framework: Keeping Ontario Safe and Open](#) (colour-coded zones) remains paused. All other public health and workplace safety measures for non-essential retail under the [provincewide emergency brake](#) (i.e., curbside pick-up and delivery only), will continue to apply.

Emergency [orders currently in force](#) under the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act have been extended until May 5, 2021, as the province continues to deal with the impacts of COVID-19. In addition, orders currently in force under the Reopening Ontario (A Flexible Response to COVID-19)

Act, 2020, with the exception of O.Reg. 241/20 (Special Rules Re Temporary Pandemic Pay), have been extended until May 20, 2021.

In compliance with the amended O.Reg. 82/20, Marinas can prepare for opening and shall be permitted to provide the following services:

- Repairing or servicing boats or other watercraft.
- Placing boats or other watercraft in the water to be secured to a dock until the marina is open to the public.
- Any other services that may be required to
 - Enable individuals to access their place of residence or their other property
 - Support government operations or services; or
 - Support the transportation of items by commercial barges

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

As of 10:00 a.m. on April 17 the SPCG can report that:

Summary of COVID-19 cases in Lambton County

Confirmed Cases	3,110
Resolved Cases	2,945
Deaths	54
Active Cases	111
Current Active Outbreaks	1
Incidence Rate per 100,000 - Week of April 4-April 10, 2021	89
Percent Positive - Week of April 4-April 10, 2021	2.8
Total immunizations given – As of April 14, 2021	35,443
First Dose	33,868
Second Dose	1,575
% Eligible with \geq 1 Dose	31

By-Law Enforcement COVID-19 Reporting System

Total number of complaints and inquiries received	1,895
Total number of emails received	1,590
Total number of phone calls received	305
Total number of charges issued	11

For further information, please contact:

City of Sarnia, Customer Service
customerservice@sarnia.ca or 519-332-0330 Ext. 3131