



*City of Sarnia*

**MEDIA RELEASE**

DATE: April 6, 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) and Point Edward regarding developments related to COVID-19.

**Local Update**

The group received an update from Dr. Ranade, Lambton County's Medical Officer of Health. LPH has opened vaccine pre-registration for some Phase 2 groups. Learn more about [Ontario's COVID-19 vaccination program](#) on the LPH website [www.getthevaccine.ca](http://www.getthevaccine.ca). The Province announced today Ontario is moving to Phase Two of the COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Plan. Phase Two is focused on age and at-risk populations to prevent further death, hospitalization and transmission.

Individuals aged 70 and over continue to be eligible for vaccination during Phase Two. Those eligible based on their age are strongly encouraged to schedule a vaccination appointment by visiting [Ontario.ca/bookvaccine](http://Ontario.ca/bookvaccine), or by calling the Provincial Vaccine Booking Line number at 1-833-943-3900. For general inquiries, individuals can call the Provincial Vaccine Information Line number at 1-888-999-6488. The Provincial Vaccine Booking Line and Information Line are open Monday to Sunday from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. and is capable of providing assistance in 300 languages.

**Compost Site Update**

The City's compost site located at 379 St. Andrew Street opened to the public today for the 2021 season. The site is open Monday to Saturday from 9 am to 5 pm until December 18<sup>th</sup>, closed on holidays.

Please note residents can expect possible delays at the site due to limited access at the gate. Compost can be dropped off at no charge for leaves, grass, and garden waste. There is a fee for brush drop off. Brush includes trees and branches that are less than 4 inches in diameter, hedges, shrubs, rose bushes, and vines.

The [2021 Collection Schedule](#) notes yard waste collection begins the week of April 12. Yard waste collection is scheduled to occur the same day as garbage collection. The first collection of brush is scheduled for the week of May 17. Please Note ZONE 1 and ZONE 2 are for recycle pick up only. Zones are not applicable to garbage, large item, yard waste or brush collection. For more information visit: <https://www.sarnia.ca/recycling-waste-collection/sarnia-compost-site/>

## **Provincial Update**

Effective, Saturday, April 3, 2021, The Ontario government, in consultation with the Chief Medical Officer of Health and other health experts, paused the current [COVID-19 Response Framework: Keeping Ontario Safe and Open](#), and implemented a [Province wide emergency brake](#) as a result of an alarming surge in case numbers and COVID-19 hospitalizations across the Province. The government intends to keep this in place for at least four weeks.

During the emergency shutdown, schools will remain open for in-person learning with strict safety measures in place. The spring break will continue as planned for the week of April 12.

The Province wide emergency brake puts public health and workplace safety measures in place to help to stop the rapid transmission of COVID-19 variants in communities, protect hospital capacity and save lives. Measures include, but are not limited to:

- Prohibiting indoor organized public events and social gatherings and limiting the capacity for outdoor organized public events or social gatherings to a 5-person maximum, except for gatherings with members of the same household (the people you live with) or gatherings of members of one household and one other person from another household who lives alone.
- Restricting in-person shopping in all retail settings, including a 50 per cent capacity limit for supermarkets, grocery stores, convenience stores, indoor farmers' markets, other stores that primarily sell food and pharmacies, and 25 per cent for all other retail including big box stores, along with other public health and workplace safety measures;

- Prohibiting personal care services;
- Prohibiting indoor and outdoor dining. Restaurants, bars and other food or drink establishments will be permitted to operate by take-out, drive-through, and delivery only;
- Prohibiting the use of facilities for indoor or outdoor sports and recreational fitness (e.g., gyms) with very limited exceptions;
- Requiring day camps to close; and,
- Limiting capacity at weddings, funerals, and religious services, rites or ceremonies to 15 per cent occupancy per room indoors, and to the number of individuals that can maintain two metres of physical distance outdoors. This does not include social gatherings associated with these services such as receptions, which are not permitted indoors and are limited to five people outdoors.

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: <https://www.sarnia.ca/covid-19/>

As of 11:30 a.m. on April 6 the SPCG can report that:

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

Confirmed Cases	2,936
Resolved Cases	2,725
Deaths	51
Active Cases	160
Current Active Outbreaks	11
Incidence Rate per 100,000 - Week of March 21-March 27, 2021	142
Percent Positive - Week of March 21-March 27, 2021	3.3
Total immunizations given – As of March 31, 2021	23,042
First Dose	21,497
Second Dose	1,545
% Eligible with $\geq$ 1 Dose	20

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

Total number of complaints and inquiries received	1,852
Total number of emails received	1,553
Total number of phone calls received	299
Total number of charges issued	11

**For further information, please contact:**

**City of Sarnia, Customer Service**

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