



Township of Wainfleet

"Wainfleet - find your country side!"

NEWS RELEASE

INFORMATION UPDATE

For Immediate Release – May 5, 2020

Wainfleet Coronavirus COVID-19 - Update

Wainfleet, ON – The Township of Wainfleet's Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) continues to be partially activated in response to the spread of the COVID-19 virus in the Niagara Region.

UPDATES (new, recently updated or timely information):

1. The **Declaration of a Provincial Emergency and all Orders** continues to be extended and will be in effect until **May 12th, 2020**. Restrictions may be expanded or modified by the Government of Ontario. Check www.ontario.ca for the latest updates and detailed information.
2. **Limited Business Reopenings:** On May 1, 2020, the [Ontario government announced](#) that it will allow certain businesses and workplaces to begin operations as of Monday, May 4 at 12:01 a.m., *provided that* strict public health measures related to COVID-19 are observed. These businesses are expected to operate safely in accordance with health and safety guidelines for all employees. Specific guidance on these measures can be found below under the heading *Sector Specific Health and Safety*.

The list of businesses permitted to open are:

- a. Garden centres and nurseries with curbside pick-up and delivery only
- b. Lawn care and landscaping
- c. Additional essential construction projects that include:
 - i. shipping and logistics
 - ii. broadband, telecommunications, and digital infrastructure
 - iii. any other project that supports the improved delivery of goods and services
 - iv. municipal projects
 - v. colleges and universities
 - vi. child care centres
 - vii. schools, and
 - viii. site preparation, excavation, and servicing for institutional, commercial, industrial and residential development
- d. Automatic and self-serve car washes
- e. Auto dealerships, *open by appointment only*
- f. Golf courses, *which may prepare their courses for the upcoming season but not open to the public, and*

- g. Marinas, *which may begin preparations for the recreational boating season by servicing boats and other watercraft and placing boats in the water but not open to the public.* Boats and watercraft must be secured to a dock in the marina until public access is allowed.

- 3. Sector Specific Health and Safety** - On April 30, 2020, the [Ontario government announced](#) new workplace health and safety guidelines to support the incremental reopening of business in Ontario while minimizing the risks to the health and safety of employees and clients.

The government has released sector-specific guidelines related to those sectors which can expect to be reopening. These sectors are:

- [construction](#)
- [food processing](#)
- [restaurants and food services](#)
- [agriculture](#)
- [manufacturing](#)

Posters for these sectors can be found [here](#).

These guidance materials are a result of active collaboration between the Ontario Ministry of Labour, Skills and Training Development and the four provincial health and safety associations (HSAs) to “help set, communicate and enforce the *Occupational Health and Safety Act*.”

The HSAs have now released a series of more than [60 technical sector guidance documents](#) to support the safety of employers and employees during the pandemic, which include resources for the following a considerable number of workplaces. These workplaces include:

- construction, utility and transportation (IHSA)
- healthcare, EMS, fire, police and municipalities (PSHSA)
- forestry, mining and industrial work camps (WSN)
- retail, food retail, curbside pickup and delivery services, equipment operators and general labourers, management, funeral services, hospitality, laundry and housekeeping services, maintenance, office workers (including engineers), restaurants, the TV and film industry, vehicle service, sales, and warehouses (WSPS).

4. Operations and Public Works:

Grass cutting and the maintenance of parks, sports fields and other municipally owned facilities in the Township of Wainfleet will continue to occur to protect the integrity of these areas, as well as, maintaining safety, minimizing ticks and other vermin, and controlling noxious weeds. In the long run it ensures our fields will be viable, and ready for the community when the emergency is lifted.



We are keeping our staff safe – The Township of Wainfleet has been working with our staff to ensure workers are safe by modifying our processes and procedures to eliminate or reduce face to face interactions between residents and workers.

The services being done by Township staff are in accordance with the guidelines established by the Province of Ontario as part of their State of Emergency with COVID-19.

- 5. Cottagers and Recreational Visitors** – With the weather improving, top health officials across the province continue to encourage cottagers and those who have recreational properties to avoid visiting their cottages to help reduce the spread of the Coronavirus.

While the Township values our seasonal residents and visitors, for their safety and the safety of the community; under the state of emergency, officials are asking them to stay home and follow the advice of the health authorities. This request is in keeping with the advice being offered by the Province of Ontario and our Niagara Regional Medical Officer of Health related to COVID-19.

Premier Ford did announce on May 4th, however, that the Province of Ontario is currently reviewing this position with an eye to potentially relaxing these recommendations by the Victoria Day long weekend. Premier Ford said that “if people are responsible, the numbers continue to go down, we’ll have that conversation”. While it has not been illegal for people to visit their cottages under the state of emergency, all levels of government have been encouraging everyone to stay home and stop the spread of the virus.

SERVICE DELIVERY and CLOSURES (Current status):

Every effort is being made to deliver essential services with a minimum of disruption consistent with COVID-19 best practices. Until further notice, closures include:

- 1) All Township buildings and facilities, however:
 - a. Township staff are still eager to serve using telephone, digital capabilities and online presence to provide vital services to our community.
 - b. Essential services are provided by pre-screened appointment only.
- 2) All playgrounds (schools & municipal), sports fields, off-leash dog parks, beaches, picnic areas, campsites, parks and outdoor recreational amenities.
 - a. Green spaces in parks, trails, beaches, ravines and conservation areas that aren’t otherwise closed remain open for *walk-through access only*, but physical distancing must be maintained
- 3) Under the provincial ‘state of emergency,’ non-essential workplaces, recreational programs, libraries, publicly funded schools, private schools, daycares, provincial parks, churches and other faith settings, as well as bars and restaurants are to remain closed, *Except:*



- a. Bars and restaurants that restrict their service to takeout or delivery *only*.
- 4) Seasonal trailer parks and recreational campgrounds were closed as of April 4, 2020, *Except*:
 - a. Ontarians whose only Canadian residence is at one of these seasonal trailer parks or campgrounds, they are permitted to continue their occupancy.

STANDING INFORMATION (from previous updates):

Payment Options for Municipal Taxes

With tax due dates approaching, residents are exploring new ways of paying their tax installments. Telephone banking, eTransfers or other digital means are the safest way to make payments for everyone. The Township respectfully asks that residents consider an alternative method of remitting their installment, such as:

1. Online/Telephone banking (be sure to use the 19-digit roll number as your account number, do not use dots or dashes please)
2. Cheque – by mail, or drop box located at the front of Town hall
3. Payment at your financial institution – Meridian Credit Union (Wainfleet Branch) will assist you by phone at 905-899-3951 if you do not already use online or telephone banking. Please have your roll number.

We are unable to accept cash payments at this time and appreciate your cooperation.

Extension and Enforcement of Emergency Orders

The declaration of a Provincial Emergency and all Orders is currently in place and in effect until May 12th, 2020. Restrictions may be expanded or modified by the Government of Ontario. Check www.ontario.ca for the latest updates and detailed information.

ONLY - Grocery stores, pharmacies, restaurants offering takeout only, & [businesses deemed essential](#) may currently remain open.

Gatherings of more than five (5) persons are prohibited, even inside private homes, by order of the Province. Exceptions exist for immediate families larger than five (5) people.

For all COVID 19 health matters and/or inquiries, please call the Public Health hotline at 905-688-8248 or 1 (888) 505-6074 (press option 7 then follow the prompts).

For Enforcement – **Do Not Dial 911**. Residents with enforcement concerns during business hours (08:30 am-4:30 pm) should call the municipality at 905-899-3463. After 4:30 pm, please call Niagara Regions Dispatch line at 905-984-3690 or 1-877-552-5579.

Complaints about businesses operating that are non-essential, or to inquire about what businesses are considered 'essential workplaces', contact the Stop the Spread Business Information Line at 1-888-444-3659.



On March 25, 2020, the federal government announced an Emergency Order under the federal Quarantine Act that requires any person entering Canada by air, sea or land to self-isolate for 14 days whether or not they have symptoms of COVID-19. They should monitor for symptoms of COVID-19 for 14 days.

Concerns about individuals not abiding by the mandatory 14-day self-isolation following international travel, under the federal Quarantine Act, must be directed to Niagara Region Public Health. Call 905-688-3762, after hours: 905-984-3690, or submit [online](#).

Fines established by the province for offences under the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act (EMPCA)* begin at \$750 and range to a year in prison or \$100,000 for an individual, \$500,000 for the director of a corporation and as high as \$10 million for a corporation.

Ontario Solicitor General Sylvia Jones has put measures in place to allow provincial offences officers to lawfully require an individual to disclose their correct name, date of birth and address the enforcement of the Emergency Orders, and a person who refuses to correctly identify themselves faces an additional fine of \$750. Measures also include provisions for failure to comply with an emergency order and obstruction of a person exercising their duties during an emergency.

Prevention of Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) - To prevent the spread of infectious diseases and to keep healthy, follow these simple steps:

- Stay home
- Wash your hands often – use soap and water or hand sanitizer
- avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue or into your sleeve
- Practice physical distancing - avoid close contact (within 2 metres) with people outside of your immediate families.
- Avoid sharing personal items - especially those that come into contact with saliva, such as toothbrushes and eating utensils.
- Clean and disinfect high touch surfaces regularly. Use a disinfectant and follow the manufacturer's instructions.

For the most up-to-date information on Township service delivery, closure and related information to COVID-19, residents are encouraged to go to www.wainfleet.ca.

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For more information, contact:

Lee Gudgeon, Emergency Information Officer
Township of Wainfleet

905-899-3463 ext. 243





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