

For Immediate Release

March 13, 2020

Town of Gananoque Prepares for COVID-19

As the Coronavirus/COVID-19 situation evolves, protecting the health and safety of our residents, businesses, and staff is our top priority. Our Municipal Emergency Control Group has been meeting to make decisions on factors that impact operations and resident services. It is important to know that The Town of Gananoque has emergency plans and processes in place to monitor and address emerging issues like this one.

As a precautionary measure, The following Town facilities **will be closed to the public** effective end of day today until end of day April 5th 2020.

- Gananoque and TLT Recreation Centre (Lou Jeffries Arena), Visitor Centre and Public Works services will be available via phone and email.
- Town Hall will be closed to the public however staff will remain on site. Services to the public will continue by phone and electronic means.
- Council and Committee meetings will continue. Council members, committee members, staff, and attendees will go through extensive hand sanitization and screening prior to attending said meetings.

The Town will be monitoring the pandemic situation and closures will be reassessed as the pandemic progresses.

“We did not make this decision lightly. We know the importance of our community facilities. We also recognize that the Health and Safety of our residents and staff must be our most paramount concern,” said Town of Gananoque Mayor, Ted Lojko.

If you have questions or require further information please call Town Hall at 613-382-2149.

The Leeds Grenville, Lanark District Health Unit states that now, is the time to practice the precautions listed below (How Can You Protect Yourself and Your Family) to prevent the spread of all respiratory diseases. This is our best defence against infections including COVID-19.

To reduce the spread of germs including Influenza (flu), stomach bug (Norovirus) and the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) we recommend that you:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water, or use hand sanitizer

- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth unless you have just washed your hands with soap
- Cover your cough and sneeze with a tissue or into your arm, not your hands
- If possible, stay home if you are sick – If possible, stay home from work/school if sick (as always, if any concerns, seek medical attention)
- Avoid visiting people in hospitals or long-term care centres if you are sick
- Do not share personal items that come into contact with saliva such as toothbrushes, eating utensils, drinks, water bottles, and towels

For more updated official information please visit the following websites:

Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit - <https://healthunit.org/coronavirus/>

Ontario Ministry of Health - <https://www.ontario.ca/page/2019-novel-coronavirus>

Health Canada - <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/coronavirus-disease-covid-19.html>

The Pandemic is an ongoing and evolving situation. The Town of Gananoque is committed to ensuring residents remain informed. Visit www.gananoque.ca for ongoing updates.