



**For Immediate Release
December 17, 2020**

Town of Gananoque Moves from Covid 19 Green to Yellow Category

The Town of Gananoque Municipal Emergency Control Group (MECG) reconvened in the last two weeks largely due to the number of COVID cases within the Leeds Grenville Lanark District Health Unit (LGLDHU), specifically the west region, which includes Gananoque.

Following the Provincial announcement that LGLDHU moved from the Green – Prevent level to Yellow – Protect level in the last week, heightened public health measures are now in effect. The quick change from green to yellow indicates how fast COVID-19 can spread. Case numbers in our region dramatically increased in the last two weeks since COVID-19 began.

What does the move from Green to Yellow mean?

Restaurants, bars and food or drink establishments, meeting and event spaces and retail, have increased measures in relation to hours of operation, alcohol consumption, patron seating, music and having safety plans in place. The maximum number of gatherings of people for private residences, organized public gatherings and religious services, wedding and funerals remain the same.

As we approach the holiday season and we are witness to how things can change very quickly, Mayor Ted Lojko is sending out very cautious words on how we celebrate the holiday. “2020 has proven to be a very difficult and challenging year for everyone,” stated Mayor Lojko “and we are not there yet. We cannot let our guards down and become complacent in our activities. Our choices affect the entire community.”

The public has been well informed and educated over the last nine months on the protocols in place when it comes to COVID-19. The increase in cases over the last few weeks is a stern reminder of how quickly it can spread. Violating the protocols may additionally impact the public financially if people choose to not comply. Gananoque Police Services is prepared to respond to complaints by the public and health unit, which may result in tickets and fines.

- S Self-isolate if you have symptoms of COVID-19. Consider getting tested.
- M Mask/face covering on properly when in enclosed public spaces and when physical distancing is a challenge outdoors.
- A Avoid touching your face.

- R Remain 2 metres/6 feet apart from people not part of your household – avoid play dates, and other close social contact. Social circles beyond the household are no longer encouraged.
- T Twenty (20) seconds for regular hand hygiene. Cover your coughs and sneezes.

Town Council and the Municipal Emergency Control Group would like to wish everyone a safe holiday season. Listen to the Health Unit's advice and limit your gatherings outside your household as well as your travel. Continue to support our local businesses in a safe manner.

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