

Madam Mayor, Members of Council and members of the public watching our Special Council Session today:

The WORLD is dealing with a viral outbreak known as COVID-19. The spread of this virus across the globe has been swift and has impacted everyone.

Symptoms of COVID-19 can range from mild conditions (flu like) and other common respiratory infections to more severe conditions. The most common symptoms include:

- fever
- cough
- difficulty breathing
- muscle aches
- fatigue
- headache
- sore throat
- runny nose

Anyone who has or feels like they have symptoms of COVID-19 - stay home or go home and self-isolate.

There is an increased risk of more severe outcomes for individuals:

- aged 65 years or older
- with compromised immune systems
- with underlying medical conditions

Individuals who are self-isolating should seek clinical assessment over the phone – either by calling their primary care provider's office (doctor's office) or Telehealth Ontario at 1-866-797-0000. If people need additional assessment treatment or information, your primary care provider or Telehealth Ontario will be able to direct you to in-person care options.

Every citizen in Georgina should be taking the necessary steps to reduce their exposure to COVID-19 and protect themselves as was directed by Ontario Public Health.

- wash your hands often with soap and water for 20 seconds or use an alcoholic based hand sanitizer
- sneeze and cough into your sleeve
- avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth
- avoid contact with people who are sick
- stay home if you are sick

**PRACTICE social distancing** – (stay two metres or six feet) for others to reduce your exposure to other people.

Travels bans have been enforced, US/Canada Borders are closed to non-essential travel. Person's returning from travel **MUST** self-isolate for 14 days.

**To reinforce:**

If you believe you have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 symptoms, you should begin to self-monitor for a period of 14 days. This means that, in addition to social distancing, you should track how you feel. Take your temperature daily and log any other symptoms that develop (for example, sore throat, new cough). You can share these records with your primary care provider over the phone if you need to seek assessment services.

York Region currently has three designated assessment centres operating out of Southlake, Markham Stouffville and Mackenzie Health. Residents are required to contact public health to access these assessment centres to prevent them from becoming overwhelmed. The province has opened an additional 35 assessment centres in Ontario. These locations can be found on the Toronto CityNews website.

How is Georgina doing our part to fight the spread and break the chain?

- March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared the global outbreak a pandemic.
- On March 13, in response to this declaration the Town of Georgina activated our Emergency Operations Centre. The EOC is charged with planning and executing a Town wide response that ensures continuity of critical services as this situation evolves.
- The EOC is currently staffed with the required Directors and Managers with authority to make the required decisions to enact our Emergency Plan and to ensure the critical services are maintained.
- The Town is also utilizing our Business Continuity Plans that have determined which services are essential such as the delivery of Fire and Rescue Emergency Services, water and wastewater services for the continued testing of our municipal water and waste collection. Services that could be reduced (interior inspections) and those services that could

be temporarily suspended (Programming) have been done so, while working with our Regional, Provincial and Federal authorities to break the chain of transmission.

- The EOC is working with the private sector to ensure our seniors who are vulnerable to this virus have access to the stores at dedicated times (first hour of business is dedicated to our seniors). As well as the local food bank in regards to food collection.

On March 19, Georgina Declared a State of Emergency to reinforce the need that Ontarians follow the advice of Ontario Public Health. The Declaration allows Council the authority to ensure the safety of residents and to deploy volunteers to be covered under WSIB.

To date we have closed all of our recreational facilities and suspended all programming. Current overnight parking and three-hour limit parking is not being enforced. Our parks, beaches, dog park and skateboard parks have been closed to protect our residents and assisting with breaking the chain.

Our facilities have been closed to the public. Increased cleaning measures have also been undertaken to reduce the risk to staff that are reporting to work.

Only essential staff are reporting to work. Others have been assigned to work from home and those having to report to work are practicing social distancing measures.

Garbage bag tag requirements have need suspended, however, collection continues as business as usual.

Anyone wishing to obtain further details can visit the town's website.

Our Emergency Management Working Group, along with our Emergency Control Group meet daily to discuss the issues that are ever changing.

We are connected with the Region and York Region Public Health through the Region's EOC that also has been activated to ensure we are acting in a coordinated fashion.

Fire Chiefs and Deputy Chiefs throughout the Region are in daily contact through conference calls and the Community Emergency Management Coordinators are in contact on a regular basis.

We are working closely and aligning our response with our Emergency Service Partners – York Region Paramedics and York Regional Police.

Our residents and members of council can be assured that we have a very experienced and dedicated team that are working very hard to ensure our residents are safe, their needs are met and their concerns addressed.