

PRESCOTT

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THE FORT TOWN

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MEDIA RELEASE

Friday, June 5, 2020
(For Immediate Release)

Information Update Regarding COVID-19 Pandemic

(Prescott) The Municipal Emergency Control Group (MECG) met virtually today to review and discuss the gradual reduction of restrictions, and the reopening of select businesses and municipal amenities.

Beginning Friday, June 5, 2020 municipal benches will become available for public use in parks and along walking trails. Please respect physical distancing by remaining 6 feet or 2 metres apart from others outside your household. Social gatherings of more than five people continue to be prohibited by the Province of Ontario. The provincial Declaration of Emergency under the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act* has been extended another 28 days, to June 30, 2020.

“I want to thank all of our residents here in Prescott for doing such an outstanding job following the health guidelines during the COVID-19 pandemic,” said Mayor Brett Todd. “It’s very gratifying that we are now at the point where we can allow the use of our benches in parks. I hope to see residents out there enjoying our parks in a responsible manner, as we move gradually towards a fuller re-opening of society this summer.”

Play structures and equipment, picnic tables, public washrooms, and other amenities remain closed to public use. A reminder to all users of parks and municipal green spaces that dogs must remain on a leash at all times. Please pick up after your pet, and use the provided waste receptacles in these areas for pet waste and litter.

Town of Prescott officials have made the difficult decision to cancel Canada Day fireworks and activities. Details will be provided to the public on opportunities to participate in virtual celebrations. Kelly’s Beach and the Kiwanis Skate Park remain closed, but are under close review by the MECG.

Residents are reminded of the important role they play in ensuring that newly reopened business remain safe places to work and shop. The Lanark, Leeds & Grenville District Health Unit has prepared guidelines to support business owners to determine if they are eligible to reopen, measures that should be taken to reduce the risk of spreading the coronavirus, and signage for the public. In instances where it is difficult to respect physical distancing it is recommended shoppers wear a cotton face covering, as a courtesy to prevent the spread of droplets from yourself to others.

To support the early detection of individuals who have COVID-19, changes have been in the approach of Ontario Assessment Centres. This type of testing will provide valuable information about the spread of the virus in different communities across the province, and help in the protection of vulnerable populations and people in our area. It is recommended that the people who meet the criteria below visit an assessment centre:

- All people with at least one symptom of COVID-19 (even mild symptoms)
- People who do not have symptoms, but are concerned that they have been exposed to the virus (This includes people who are contacts of or may have been exposed to a confirmed or suspected case)
- People who do not have symptoms but feel they are at risk of exposure to COVID-19 through their employment, including essential workers

People no longer need to be referred to an assessment centre by Telehealth Ontario, Primary Care, or Public Health. No person who is symptomatic or who is concerned they have been exposed to COVID-19 will be declined a test at an assessment centre. The Brockville Assessment Centre is open to walk-ins Monday to Friday 10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and weekends from 10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

The LGL Health Unit continues to remind us to follow all current public health precautions:

- Stay home as much as possible, including limiting trips to non-essential stores and areas, and working from home when able
- Practice physical distancing, which means staying 2 metres or 6 feet apart from all people outside of your household
- Wear a non-surgical cotton face covering if you cannot stay 2 metres or 6 feet apart from people outside your household while in public
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or use hand sanitizer with a minimum alcohol base of 70% after being in touch with others or handling anything from outside of your home
- Avoid touching your face (particularly your eyes, nose, and mouth)
- Cover your cough and sneeze into a tissue or your elbow (not your hands)
- Do not share personal items that come into contact with saliva such as eating utensils, drinks, water bottles, and towels
- If you are feeling unwell, stay home. Do not visit public or business settings, even if wearing a cotton face covering

The LGL Health Unit has staff answering COVID-19 related questions and concerns from the public daily from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at 1-800-660-5853 extension 2499. Public health inspectors are also available to discuss environmental concerns, and business owners can contact for clarification and resources.

In order to keep up to date with official information, please refer to the following sources:

- Town of Prescott – COVID-19 Updates www.prescott.ca/COVID19
- Leeds, Grenville & Lanark District Health Unit www.healthunit.org/coronavirus
- Ontario Ministry of Health – COVID-19 <https://covid-19.ontario.ca>
- Business Re-Opening www.ontario.ca/page/resources-prevent-covid-19-workplace
- Health Canada COVID-19 App & Self-Assessment Tool <https://ca.thrive.health>

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