

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Friday, March 13, 2020

**Township of Wellesley's Response to the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)**

CROSSHILL – The Township of Wellesley's response to any public health emergency is led by [Region of Waterloo Public Health and Emergency Services](#). Region of Waterloo Public Health continues to work closely with local hospitals, health care partners, the Ministry of Health, Public Health Ontario and national partners to monitor and respond accordingly to the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) situation.

The [Region of Waterloo Public Health](#) considers the risk of this virus to be **LOW** in Waterloo Region. However, this is a rapidly evolving situation with discussions and decisions being made on an ongoing basis as information is made available. Dr. Hsiu-Li Wang, Region of Waterloo Public Health's Acting Medical Officer is strongly recommending that any large events or gatherings of over 250 people be cancelled or postponed. Dr. Wang also recommends that all non-essential travel outside of Canada, including to the United States is postponed, and that any returning travelers to Waterloo Region refrain from visiting patients in hospitals, long-term care and retirement homes or visiting the elderly or those with chronic health conditions.

Given the evolving situation and the need to ensure that those who may need more elevated levels of care are able to receive the assessment and care that they need, Ontario has updated its recommendations for COVID-19 testing. In general, testing will be prioritized for people who need hospital care or certain groups of people such as health care workers or those in long-term care or retirement homes. For most other people who develop fever and/or cough and have traveled to an affected area, testing is no longer recommended. They will still need to remain at home in self-isolation until such time as they are no longer symptomatic for 24 hours.

Currently, **there are no changes being made to the Township's operations, programs or services** as a result of COVID-19. For March Break, facilities will remain open and any scheduled programming will continue. Any changes in operations will be immediately communicated and posted to the Township's website and social media networks.

The Township of Wellesley is taking action to prevent the spread of germs, COVID-19 and other viruses:

- Senior management is continuously reviewing business continuity plans and pandemic policies and making any necessary changes in order to continue to serve the residents of the Township;
- No new events of more than 250 people will be planned by the Township until further notice;
- Increased signage to create awareness of good hygiene and disease prevention has been posted in all facilities;
- Facilities Management is ensuring soap dispensers are replenished and in good working order at all Township facilities;
- Increased cleaning of all high traffic areas in all Township facilities.

**Contact**

The [Region of Waterloo Public Health](#) is asking residents to connect with them directly if they have any questions or for up to date information. Contact them over email at [publichealth@regionofwaterloo.ca](mailto:publichealth@regionofwaterloo.ca) and/or by calling their 24/7 corporate contact centre at 519-575-4400.

**Recommended resources:**

- Region of Waterloo Public Health Coronavirus webpage: [regionofwaterloo.ca/2019NovelCoronavirus](https://regionofwaterloo.ca/2019NovelCoronavirus)
- Ontario Ministry of Health webpage: [Ontario.ca/coronavirus](https://Ontario.ca/coronavirus)
- Public Health Agency of Canada webpage: [Canada.ca/coronavirus](https://Canada.ca/coronavirus)

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