



**CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
MEMORANDUM**

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TO: MAYOR J. LEHMAN AND MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

FROM: M. PROWSE, CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

RE: COVID-19 UPDATE

DATE: MAY 25, 2020

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide members of Council with an update regarding COVID-19.

Overview of Current Status

There are currently 454 confirmed cases of COVID-19 including 328 recovered, 8 hospitalizations and 36 deaths in Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit area. On May 21st, the Health Unit advised that the doubling rate is now at 52.5 days which is a positive sign of the slowing of transmission.

The Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit continues to emphasize the importance of basic controls such as physical distancing to have the greatest impact on the rate of hospitalizations, ICU cases and new deaths. The Health Unit advises that people should limit their contacts with others and are recommending that people wear a non-medical mask to protect others around them, especially when they are unable to physically distance themselves.

The COVID-19 Assessment Centre at 490 Huronia Road is open 7 days/week. The hours of operation are Monday to Friday it is open from 8 am to 6 pm. On Saturdays and Sundays, it is open from 10 am to 4 pm. Wait times are generally 15-20 minutes with less individuals attending the Centre on the weekends.

Updates related to City Services

The temporary closure of Lakeshore Drive for pedestrians and cyclists (Lakeshore Dr. northbound between the Tiffin Boat Launch and Victoria St.) has been a success! Operations installed trip counters for the closed section of Lakeshore Drive and the adjacent pathways. The closed section of Lakeshore saw close to 19,500 trips over the long-weekend and the adjacent pathways saw just over 14,000 trips. The temporary closure has provided more space for people to be active and enjoy the outdoors, while maintaining a safe physical distance. The detour for vehicles is along Bradford Street and Victoria Street. Please note that the Tiffin Boat Launch and North Centennial parking lots are for vehicles with trailers only. The other waterfront lots are accessible via Lakeshore Dr, southbound.

Effective May 12, changes were made to parking along Dunlop St. to make it easier for downtown businesses and their customers to take advantage of curbside pickup. All on-street parking spaces along Dunlop St. from Poyntz St. to Toronto St. were temporarily designated as "loading only zones" under the Traffic By-law. Limiting parking to standing for 10 minutes or less will help maintain traffic flow in the area.

As of May 16th, the Tiffin Boat Launch reopened to the public. The City's Dog Off-Leash Recreation Area (DOLRA) on Bayview Dr. reopened on Tuesday, May 19th. The marina, boat launch and transient boat docks located at the base of Bayfield St. reopened on Friday, May 22.

Outdoor tennis courts and the outdoor pickleball court (located at Painswick Park) will reopen the week of May 25. City staff are in the process of preparing outdoor sports facilities and need time to complete all safety inspections and maintenance work before reopening.



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Starting Monday, May 25, residents can put out as many additional tagged bags as they would like (in addition to their regular collection limit of two bags), as long as they are properly tagged (affixed to the neck of the bag, not on bulk items), and do not weigh more 20kg/45 lbs per bag.

Baseball diamonds, basketball courts, soccer fields, skate parks and the disc golf course will reopen in the coming weeks. Physical distancing of two metres is still in effect and gatherings of more than five people are still not permitted at any time. Although sports fields will reopen for individual recreational use (no organized play), Parks & Forestry staff require two weeks to prepare the fields for organized or group activities once the Province lifts restrictions for team/group activities of more than five people on sports fields. No new sports field permits are being issued for organized sports groups at this time.

Barrie Transit has been a leader in ensuring the safety of the public and drivers throughout the COVID pandemic. On May 20, the Province provided guidelines with respect to public transit. The City and our service provider had previously addressed many of the items outlined in the announcement, including increased educational information on buses about COVID-19 precautions, daily sanitization of buses and facilities, installation of hand sanitizer dispensers on buses, personal protective equipment for drivers, rear-door-only boarding for passengers and limited seating capacity/reduced maximum capacity. Plexiglass shields to separate the operators from the passengers will be installed soon. In response to the federal and provincial guidance provided, Barrie Transit has begun a marketing campaign to promote the use of face coverings by patrons. The full details related to the controls implemented are identified in a separate memorandum. Free Transit service is being extended until July 1st to allow the City and its service provider to complete all safety requirements prior to resuming paid service.

Earlier this month, the City asked local businesses and residents for feedback to help develop the COVID-19 Business Recovery Action Plan. Building on existing work, the COVID-19 Business Recovery Action Plan is being developed through consultation with local industry, stakeholders, business leaders and the general public. It will target several sectors based upon the size of the sector within Barrie, the severity of impact of the pandemic and the sector's impact on accelerating economic recovery. Key sectors include manufacturing, tourism, arts & culture, downtown, construction, and service-based businesses. The actions identified in the plan will support the acceleration of local businesses reopening after COVID-19 and help bring employees and customers back into local establishments safely and efficiently. The plan will be designed to be responsive and adaptive to developments in regulations and programming at the Provincial and Federal levels of Government and will be presented to Council in June.

Financial hardship applications are available on the City's website for elimination of the fixed charge on next water and wastewater bill. As of May 22, 2,496 applications for elimination of the fixed charge have been received. Residents are encouraged to apply as soon as possible, as there is limited funding available for this program. Landlords are required to pass the water bill relief on to tenants if water charges are included in their rent.

The City of Barrie has launched Community Heroes, an online campaign to showcase appreciation for the many acts of kindness that members of the community have experienced during this unprecedented time. #BarrieHeroes is a way for residents to share photos and stories about the many different heroes that emerge in a time of crisis: those that have gone to work so most can stay home, the essential workers on the front lines, and the people who've shown strength of character helping others. We have had almost 20 nominations received from our community so far showcasing the everyday heroes in Barrie. To submit a story and share a picture visit barrie.ca/heroes or use the #BarrieHeroes on social media.

Although City Hall and other facilities are closed to the public at this time, business is continuing. Service Barrie continues to be available to help with service requests, applications, payments and more. Residents may visit them online at barrie.ca/contact or phone them at (705) 739-4242.



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COVID-19 Enforcement Volumes

On April 3, 2020, the City of Barrie set up a dedicated COVID-19 Enforcement Line for the public to report instances of non-compliance with the COVID-19 emergency orders. Members of the public can call the COVID-19 Enforcement Line at 705-739-4241 or email at enforcement.services@barrie.ca.

The level of Municipal Law Enforcement weekly activity for the period of May 18 to May 24, 2020 is as follows:

There were 618 total instances including 560 from routine patrols. 420 of the instances from routine patrols did not have a violation. Of the 140 violations, the majority related to use of beaches, dogs off leash, use of amenities/playground equipment, as well as non-COVID-19 related matters such as smoking in parks.

Municipal Law Enforcement received 59 general enquiries about COVID-19 related matters, with 49 via email and 10 phone calls.

The following is a breakdown of the nature of 58 of complaints received:

- Gatherings – 29
- Park equipment use - 21
- Businesses – 7
- 2 metre distance – 1

No charges were laid last week.

The total number of instances addressed by Municipal Law Enforcement related to COVID-19 since March 16 is 6,266. In 99.66% of the cases, Municipal Law Enforcement Officers were able to achieve compliance without laying charges.

Service Level Impacts

Advocacy work is underway with the Large Urban Mayors Caucus of Ontario (LUMCO) with respect to securing much needed financial aid from the Federal and Provincial government.

With the warmer weather, residents are reminded that the Provincial order is still in effect and all associated measures on physical distancing, and maximum gathering sizes of 5 or less are still in place. Beaches, outdoor playground equipment, waterfront fitness equipment and splash pads remain closed until later stages of the province's reopening plan. Public health is asking for continued adherence to these orders or else our hard work will have been a waste.

Planning and preparations for the re-opening at some point of City programs, facilities and services are underway. However, all direction on how this will happen, and the timing is subject to direction from the Province and the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit. It is anticipated that this will occur slowly, and it will not be "business as usual".

Should you have any questions regarding the information included in this memorandum, please feel free to contact me directly.