



For Immediate Release

RE: Continuation of Service & COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus)

Whitewater Region, Ontario – March 13, 2020

The Township's Municipal Emergency Control Group, comprised of the Mayor, Reeve, CAO and staff from key areas, met today at 12:30 p.m. to review the current situation involving COVID-19. The Control Group will be convening daily via teleconference as of Sunday, March 15 to monitor the situation.

Residents are directed to the Renfrew County & District Health Unit for information and guidance on COVID-19. The risk currently remains low in Renfrew County. Please refer to instructions on how to protect yourself and your family.

<https://www.rcdhu.com/novel-coronavirus-covid-19-2/>

Please follow these instructions to reduce the spread of germs:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water or use alcohol-based sanitizers.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth, unless you have just cleaned your hands with soap.
- Cover your cough and sneeze with a tissue or into your arm, not your hand
- If possible, stay home if you are sick.
- Avoid visiting people in hospitals or long-term care centers if you are sick.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
- It is still recommended to get your flu shot if you have not already as the flu virus is still circulating in the community.

The Township is maintaining essential services as we continue to monitor the situation with guidance from the health unit and other levels of government. The Municipal Office will remain open at this time, Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Residents will be encouraged to make payments online, utilize the afterhours drop box or contact staff by email or telephone. Essential services such as the landfill, curbside pick-up and routine road maintenance are not impacted at this time. You are asked to refrain from attending municipal facilities if you are sick and keep a 2m or 6ft distance from others.

The following events and services are impacted:

- The Mayor's Business Breakfast, scheduled for March 24, 2020 is postponed.
- The Volunteer Appreciation Event being organized for National Volunteer Week is postponed as is the Emergency Preparedness Open House.
- The next regular Council meeting is scheduled for April 15, 2020. Any special or emergency meetings will be called by Mayor Moore, as necessary.
- **Arena operations are suspended from Saturday, March 15, 2020 to Monday, April 13, 2020.**
- **WWR Libraries will be closed in keeping with the schools closure until April 5, 2020.**

Additional information will be shared as available on the municipal website.

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Additional information:

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