



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 7, 2020

Community Message From Mayor Virginia Hackson

I hope this message reaches you in good health and spirits. As we all continue to navigate this new and ever-changing reality, Council's number one focus is the health and safety of our residents and to support the business community of East Gwillimbury.

Our Town remains under the State of Emergency declared on March 19th. We have extended all Town facility closures until further notice and programming has been cancelled until June 30th. We continue to monitor and will adjust as deemed appropriate.

Over the past week our community has come together to face this crisis and to collectively work toward 'planking the curve' of COVID-19. This is done through our self-isolation and physical distancing efforts which must continue during the weeks ahead. We are approaching Easter weekend and I know there will be an urge to put these measures aside, but this cannot be done. We must not let our guard down, but instead we must remain vigilant and committed in our efforts.

Easter celebrations will certainly look much different for all of us this year. We will not have extended family and friends at the dinner table in person, but they can be there through technology. I have been impressed reading about the innovative suggestions and ideas to celebrate the occasion with family and friends while apart. I encourage everyone to consider options such as using Skype, FaceTime, or even a telephone call to connect and virtually share dinner and perhaps even an Easter egg hunt. Physical distancing does not mean social isolation so please use these tools to connect.

We must all continue to share the message that we all need to work together to continue the fight against this virus. Also, please continue to:

- Stay at home – Visitors to your home, even in your backyard are not allowed. If they do not live with you, they should not be in your home.
- Limit grocery shopping – designate one person to shop once a week.
- Remind youth on the importance of staying home and connecting with friends through technology.

Without our collective participation to continue to self-isolate and maintain physical distancing there will be no improvement in the weeks ahead. Tomorrow depends on our actions today!

Be supportive and kind – together we will get through this.