



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 3, 2020

Community Message from Mayor Virginia Hackson

This past weekend, the York Region COVID-19 enforcement task force conducted an inspection blitz on businesses to ensure they were following the COVID-19 safety protocols and procedures. This blitz was part of York Regional Council's commitment to increase enforcement to protect residents, and employees throughout the Region. I fully support these inspections and remind residents that everyone must continue to do all that we can to control the spread of COVID-19. If we fail to act now there will be much greater risks to our citizens in the coming weeks.

The inspection blitz was focused on big box retail stores and fitness centres. In East Gwillimbury, 12 businesses were inspected, and I am proud to share that during the inspections, it was observed that health regulations were being followed, including social distancing, capacity limits and face masks being worn. One local business was issued a citation for failing to provide a safety plan. Details regarding the inspections can be viewed at www.york.ca

I extend thanks and appreciation to our business owners for being responsible and ensuring the proper precautions are in place for public health and safety.

As we continue to move through this pandemic, I remind local businesses that there are programs in place to provide you with assistance. The Province has many available resources including a template to help create a COVID-19 Safety Plan. Please visit their website at <https://www.ontario.ca/page/develop-your-covid-19-workplace-safety-plan> to create your plan and once done be sure to share the information with your employees. Our Economic Development team is always available to provide assistance. Please don't hesitate to reach out to them at ecdev@eastgwillimbury.ca

A special thanks to our residents for shopping local and I encourage everyone to continue doing this, especially in the weeks ahead. There are so many great and creative local businesses and artisans right here in our community and they need our support. The Town has partnered with the East Gwillimbury Chamber of Commerce launching several #EGLovesLocal initiatives for the holiday season. For more information visit www.eastgwillimbury.ca and visit our support local businesses page.