



Town of East Gwillimbury

MEMORANDUM

To: Council

Date: July 28, 2020

Subject: COVID-19 Update #7

Origin: COVID-19 Control Group

COVID-19 Control Group Updates

The COVID-19 Control Group continues to meet and is in communications with Council, neighbouring municipalities and York Region. Town is closely following the Stage 3 reopening. The group also continues to work closely with Provincial and York Region Public Health Officials regarding this public health crisis. The Town remains under a state of emergency and continues to monitor the Federal and Provincial updates with respect to the phased approach for a safe restart of economy.

Mandatory Face Masks/Covering in Enclosed Public Spaces in York Region

On July 9, 2020, Regional Council unanimously endorsed a recommendation from York Region's Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Karim Kurji, to make face masks/coverings mandatory in enclosed public spaces across York Region. Effective Friday, July 17, 2020, business owners and operators in York Region were required to have a policy in place to prohibit people from entering if they are not wearing a face mask or covering and must place [approved York Region signage](#) on the premise. Outdoor settings and indoor spaces not open to the public are excluded. Additionally, a face mask or covering is not required at home with immediate family members, while eating on a restaurant patio or in the workplace where other standards apply, such as the Occupational Health and Safety Act.

The Town has created a policy for mask use in enclosed public spaces (with exemption rules for those who cannot wear masks). The Town is supplying reusable fabric face masks for all staff. An initial distribution occurred on July 17, 2020 to employees who are still reporting to the workplace, with the remainder to be distributed as a "welcome back package" to staff. Once municipal facilities begin to reopen to the public masks will be mandatory in all areas of the building that are accessible to the public.

York Region to move to Stage Three of Reopening

On July 20, 2020, the Province of Ontario announced that York Region Public Health area would enter into Stage Three of the government's reopening framework as of July 24, 2020. Businesses and public spaces are able to gradually reopen with public health and workplace safety restrictions in place. Some of the businesses that will be permitted to reopen include gyms/fitness studios, cinemas, libraries, community centres and indoor seating at restaurants. Indoor gathering limits will increase to a maximum of 50 people and outdoor gathering limits will increase to a maximum of 100 people.

Stage 3 Re-opening and Scaled Back Return to Facilities, Permits and Programs

Community Parks Recreation & Culture (CPRC) staff are reviewing a modified re-opening of Town facilities including public health precautions and cost implications. CPRC staff are reviewing a limited re-opening of community centres, arenas and libraries possibly for mid to late August. The library re-openings are being aligned with the safe re-opening of municipal community centres. The re-opening of municipal community centres could support scaled back and limited programming and permits.

The re-opening of park facilities continues with tennis courts, sports courts/basketball courts, bike and skateboard parks, splash pads, sports fields and most recently playgrounds with the start of Stage 3. CPRC staff are working with sports groups to provide limited permits to support sports organizations safe return back to their respective sports.

The Recovery Team will provide further updates to Council and the public as additional information is made available. Staff will continue to work with Parks & Recreation Ontario and York Region municipalities for industry best practices.

2020 Council Schedule Updates

With new legislative changes allowing Council Meetings to continue utilizing electronic meetings beyond any Provincial or Municipal declaration of emergency, staff suggest the following:

- that the September Council meetings continue with the same electronic format with the Mayor as the Chair, with the exception that all meetings will start at 10:00 a.m.
- October-December staff will continue to monitor Stage 3 conditions and with the reopening of town facilities (Civic Centre) there may be an opportunity to start utilizing the Council Chambers on a limited attendance basis and using a hybrid Council meeting with some attending meeting in-person while others attend electronically

- Budget deliberations to continue as previously scheduled on November 23rd & 25th at 9:00 a.m. with December 8th (if required)
- For 2021 staff will follow up with Council Members on the options of returning to the normal meeting format (CWC & Council) vs the existing one meeting format.

East Gwillimbury Public Library Curbside Update

The Library's new curbside service is being utilized by the community, with 425 pickups since launching the service on June 9. There are 200 items currently on hold and being prepared for pickup. In addition to curbside, the Library saw a 30% increase in e-lending this past quarter, comparing to the previous year. The Library reached 1,000 followers on Instagram, as many programs turned virtual. The Library launched its annual TD Summer Reading Club on July 3, with over 100 children enrolled in the program. The team continues to work on a reopening strategy that aligns with Provincial guidelines and the Town. Stay tuned for more details.

Province Extends Emergency Orders until July 29, 2020

The Ontario government has extended most emergency orders currently in force under s.7.0.2 (4) of the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act (EMCPA) until July 29, 2020. Keeping the emergency orders in place provides the government with the necessary flexibility to ensure the protection of vulnerable populations, such as seniors, while continuing to implement its Framework for Reopening the Province while many Regions enter Stage Three.

On July 21, 2020, Bill 195, the *Reopening Ontario (A Flexible Approach to COVID-19) Act, 2020*, received royal assent. This Bill allows the Province to end the state of emergency but would simultaneously allow the Province to continue several existing orders. Under this legislation, restrictions on the size of gatherings, or orders that keep businesses closed and override collective agreements for the redeployment of workers, are all extended and can even be amended. These orders no longer need to be renewed every 14 days and could remain in place up until June 2022.

“Build Back Better” Recovery Plan Update

The Town’s Recovery Team continues to work on the plan for post Labour Day to year-end and to gather relevant information from all divisions to ensure all operating requirements are met for the purpose of returning staff and public engagement to a safe work environment. A separate presentation entitled Recovery Framework is included on the July 28, 2020 Council agenda outlining the Recovery Team’s actions taken to-date.

Additionally, the Town’s third-party service provider is currently developing a draft report on the after-action review (the operations of the Emergency Operation Centre) to be brought back to the COVID-19 Control Group in July 2020. Updates regarding this initiative are outlined in the Administration Report ADMIN 2020-06 entitled “Build Back Better” – COVID-19 Recovery.

East Gwillimbury Emergency Response Benefit Update

On May 5, 2020 Council authorized the General Manager of Corporate Services and Solicitor to enter into an agreement with South Lake Community Futures Development Corporation to administer the East Gwillimbury Emergency Response Benefit (EGERB) Program in support of business recovery. A full update regarding this program has been included in the East Gwillimbury Emergency Response Benefit Update memo.