



Town of East Gwillimbury

MEMORANDUM

To: Council

Date: October 6, 2020

Subject: COVID-19 Update #10

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. The group also continues to work closely with Provincial and York Region Public Health Officials regarding this public health crisis.

Provincial Updates Regarding an Increase in COVID-19 cases

Over the past five weeks, Ontario has experienced an increase in the rate of new COVID-19 cases. Private social gatherings continue to be a significant source of transmission in many local communities, along with outbreak clusters in restaurants, bars, and other food and drink establishments. In particular, an increase in numbers has been seen in adults aged 20-39.

To ensure the continued health and safety of Ontarians, reduce the risk of transmission, and limit future outbreaks of COVID-19, effective midnight on September 26, the Province restricted the sale of alcohol after 11 p.m., and has prohibited the consumption of alcohol on the premises after 12:00 a.m. until 9:00 a.m. (including employees), and requiring establishments to close by 12:00 a.m. and remain closed until 5:00 a.m. except for takeout or delivery. They also closed all strip clubs, and require businesses or organizations to comply with any advice, recommendations, and instructions issued by the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health on screening for COVID-19.

As numbers continue to rise, it is expected that the Province will place greater restrictions on gatherings. Further details will be provided as available.

East Gwillimbury COVID-19 Data and Statistics

The Town of East Gwillimbury continues to have a low number of active cases. However, the Town has also seen an increase in cases in recent weeks. York Region has developed an interactive dashboard for each municipality with recent case numbers. This dashboard is available at www.york.ca/covid19. Below is a chart of the East Gwillimbury specific data as of September 30, 2020:

Total Confirmed Cases	93
Total Resolved/Recovered Cases	86
Total Active Cases	6
Total Confirmed Deaths	1
Total Cases Reported in last 7 days	4

Community, Parks, Recreation and Culture Updates

Fall Health and Active Living Programs

The Town's Health and Active Living Guide was released virtually on September 30, 2020. Due to the possibility of updates to the schedule based on Provincial regulations, the guide is only made available online. This allows for updates and changes to the guide reflective of any changes to regulations. Registration for Fall programs began on October 1. Winter registration will occur closer to the beginning of these programs. All programs are subject to change based on Provincial regulations, and staff will provide timely communications to Council and the public regarding these updates.

New "Virtual" Programs This Season

New for the Fall season, the Town has introduced virtual programming. Residents can enjoy activities such as fitness, yoga, draw, paint and sculpt, coding with Kids Great Minds and babysitting courses all from the comfort of their own home. Programs and take-home activity boxes have also been designed for children preparing for school.

Modifications Made to In-class Programs

In-class programs have been adjusted to keep participants and staff safe. Classes have limited availability to physically distance participants. Pickleball drop-in and the Seniors' Walking Group are back and require pre-registration to participate with limited space available.

Adding Participant Caregivers into our Facilities Safely

In August, the Town resumed programming at the East Gwillimbury Sports Complex for skating and hockey through the Town, East Gwillimbury Minor Hockey Association (EGMHA) and East Gwillimbury Skating Club (EGSC). As part of the initial roll out, only

program participants, coaches, and training staff were allowed into the building to maximize occupancy of the programs and to limit exposure.

As part of the next phase of building back better, the Town is looking at options to allow one parent/guardian to accompany their child participating in hockey and skating within the U7 age group. Caregivers will be asked to follow the same facility rules as the participants such as maintaining physical distancing, hand sanitizing, wearing a mask and standing in a designated area.

Staff will continue to monitor the provincial numbers and move forward with this phase only when it is safe to do so. We will continue to work with EGMHA and EGSC to evolve and adjust plans as required.

Virtual Hallo'week

Starting Monday October 26, Halloween related videos with crafts and activities will be posted on the Town's website and Facebook for residents to enjoy. Residents are also invited to register for a Hallo'week themed take home box as of October 12 through Activenet. These free boxes will include all the materials required to participate in the virtual crafts/videos. There are a limited number of boxes available for children, however, a list of materials needed to create your own box will be published on the Town's website. This event is sponsored by Lee and Shai Lander.

Public Access to Municipal Facilities

The Town developed a three-stage Recovery Framework Strategic/Phased Approach to ensure the Town builds back better. This phased approach allows for a cautious and safe re-opening that aligns the actions of the Town of East Gwillimbury with the recommendations and guidelines from the Province of Ontario, York Region Public Health, and other authorities. Further, the Town will only move from one phase to the next when prepared to do so safely and with all necessary precautions in place.

Due to the current increase in cases, the Town is holding in the current state, and not increasing or decreasing access to municipal facilities. This ensures we are positioned to follow Provincial guidance in the coming weeks.

In this current state, services will continue to be offered virtually, programs at the Sports Complex will continue, the library will remain opened with decreased capacity and Council and staff will continue to be able to request entrance to the Civic Centre to perform work that can not be completed at home or to host meetings with external stakeholders that can not be completed virtually. Further updates will be provided as available.

Feedback on Library Re-Opening

The Library opened its doors to the public on Wednesday, September 23, 2020. During the first week of operation, there were over 750 visitors. Visitors are limited to browsing and checking out books and other material, and one hour of computer use. Due to the rising case count in York Region, the Library has made the decision to reduce occupancy limits to 10 from 25, effective Thursday, October 1. The Interlibrary loan program will recommence as of October 7, 2020. Programs continue to be offered virtually. The Library will continue to monitor the situation and work with the Town on COVID-19 protocols and guidelines. The Library will continue to offer curbside service by request for those who are unable to enter the facility.

Mental Health Staff Support

On Monday, September 28, staff participated in an informative, live webinar Through the Looking Glass; Thriving in the New Normal and Responding Successfully to the Changes.

In this time of change the webinar provided five key strategies to help adapt successfully to the new normal at work, home and with our family and friends. This included creating a vision, identifying strengths as well as threats, to think about our core values and develop an action plan. It also provided effective coping strategies such as deep breathing, taking a time-out, positive thinking and physical activity; and the benefits of staying positive and optimistic which results in the ability to cope with reality, to think clearly and adapt successfully.

Another key message was to practice gratitude and to take stock of things we are grateful for, personal opportunities that could come from this situation, the advantages of working from home and to continue to maintain a sense of community and an appreciation with nature, especially during the fall season, and to align your life goals and values.

More live webinars will be provided over the coming weeks.