



CP SCOOP – January 12th, 2021

MUNICIPAL UPDATES

Council Meeting Cancelled – Please note that the Council meeting originally schedule for this evening, Tuesday, January 12th, 2021, has been cancelled.

Road Work on Bridge Street - Terrapex will be working in the roadway on Bridge Street tomorrow, Wednesday, January 13th and again on Thursday, January 14th in front of the Canadian Tire gas station. There will no be lane closures associated with this work. They are beginning at 9:00 a.m. on both days. On Wednesday, the work is expected to take three (3) hours, and on Thursday approximately two (2) hours.

PROVINCIAL UPDATES

[Ontario Declares Second Provincial Emergency to Address COVID-19 Crisis and Save Lives - Province Issues Stay-at-Home Order and Introduces Enhanced Enforcement Measures to Reduce Mobility](#) - In response to a doubling in COVID-19 cases over the past two weeks, the real and looming threat of the collapse of the province's hospital system and alarming risks posed to long-term care homes as a result of high COVID-19 transmission rates, the Ontario government, in consultation with the Chief Medical Officer of Health and other health experts, is immediately declaring a second provincial emergency under s 7.0.1 (1) of the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act* (EMPCA).

Effective Thursday, January 14th, 2021 at 12:01 a.m., the government is issuing a stay-at-home order requiring everyone to remain at home with exceptions for essential purposes, such as going to the grocery store or pharmacy, accessing health care services, for exercise or for essential work. This order and other new and existing public health restrictions are aimed at limiting people's mobility and reducing the number of daily contacts with those outside an immediate household. In addition to limiting outings to essential trips, all businesses must ensure that any employee who can work from home, works from home.

Additional Public Health Restrictions

In response to the alarming and exceptional circumstances at hand, and to further interrupt the deadly trend of transmission in Ontario communities, hospitals, and long-term care homes, the government will enact the following additional public health measures:

- Outdoor organized public gatherings and social gatherings are further restricted to a limit of five (5) people with limited exceptions. This is consistent with the rules during the lockdown during the first wave of COVID-19 in the spring of 2020 and will allow individuals and families to enjoy time outdoors safely.

- Individuals are required to wear a mask or face covering in the indoor areas of businesses or organizations that are open. Wearing a mask or face covering is now recommended outdoors when you can't physically distance more than two metres.
- All non-essential retail stores, including hardware stores, alcohol retailers, and those offering curbside pickup or delivery, must open no earlier than 7 a.m. and close no later than 8 p.m. The restricted hours of operation do not apply to stores that primarily sell food, pharmacies, gas stations, convenience stores, and restaurants for takeout or delivery.
- Non-essential construction is further restricted, including below-grade construction, exempting survey.

These measures will come into effect between Tuesday, January 12th, 2021 and Thursday, January 14th, 2021, including the provincial declaration of emergency under the EMCPA, orders under that Act, and amendments to regulations under the *Reopening Ontario (A Flexible Response to COVID-19) Act, 2020*.

New Enforcement Measures

Under the declaration of a provincial emergency, the province will provide authority to all enforcement and provincial offences officers, including the Ontario Provincial Police, local police forces, by-law officers, and provincial workplace inspectors to issue tickets to individuals who do not comply with the stay-at-home-order, or those not wearing a mask or face covering indoors as well as retail operators and companies who do not enforce these requirements. Those who decide not to abide by orders will be subject to set fines and/or prosecution under both the *Reopening Ontario (A Flexible Response to COVID-19) Act, (ROA)* and EMCPA.

In addition, all enforcement personnel will have the authority to temporarily close a premise and disperse individuals who are in contravention of an order and will be able to disperse people who are gathering, regardless whether a premise has been closed or remains open such as a park or house.

Schools and Child Care Centres

Based on the advice of the Chief Medical Officer of Health, schools in the following public health units (PHUs) will not return to in-person instruction until February 10th, 2021:

- Windsor-Essex
- Peel Region
- Toronto
- York
- Hamilton

By January 20th, 2021, the Chief Medical Officer of Health will advise the Ministry of Education on which public health units (PHUs) will be permitted to resume in-person instruction, based on the most up-to-date data and modelling. Before-and after-school programs can be offered when in-person instruction resumes. Schools in northern PHUs will continue to remain open.

To continue to keep students, staff and communities safe, the following new health and safety measures will be put in place for in-person learning:

- Masking for Grade 1-3 and requirements for mask wearing outdoors;
- Enhanced screening protocols; and
- Expanded targeted testing.

The government will also implement new health and safety measures in Ontario childcare settings, such as enhanced screening to align with school requirements, voluntary participation in targeted testing and additional

infection prevention and control measures to align with schools. These enhancements are in addition to the existing health and safety measures already being implemented in childcare settings across the province.

Childcare centres for non-school aged children will remain open, and emergency childcare for school-aged children will end in approved PHU regions on January 22, 2021 as these elementary schools return to in-person learning. During this extended period of online learning, in areas where in-person elementary learning is suspended, emergency childcare will continue for eligible families in regions subject to school closures, as identified by the Chief Medical Officer of Health.

OTHER UPDATES

Lanark County – Childcare for Essential Workers - Lanark County has received authorization from the Province of Ontario to open three licensed childcare centres to provide care for school aged children of essential service workers during the lockdown. The Child Development Centre operated by the Town of Smiths Falls, TayCare Children’s Centre in Perth operated by Tayside Community Residential and Support Options, and Almonte Day Care Centre operated by the Municipality of Mississippi Mills will open their doors Tuesday, January 12th. The three centres are licensed childcare facilities staffed by early childhood educators and experienced in offering care during the pandemic.

To support members of the essential workforce licensed childcare service will be available at no cost to eligible families with school aged children at the three sites, funded by the Province of Ontario. Services will operate for extended business hours Monday to Friday. Centres work closely with the Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit to implement practices that keep children and staff as safe as possible.

Emergency childcare services are reserved exclusively for school aged children of essential workers, defined by the Province of Ontario. To be eligible, workers must be required to report to an official work location to deliver the service without the ability to work from home. Childcare centres remain open as usual to serve non-school aged children.

There are a number of workers eligible for emergency child care, including, but not limited to police officers, firefighters or individuals providing fire protection services, regulated health care professionals, unregulated health care providers working in health care, long-term care and retirement home staff, paramedics, Canada Post employees, individuals who perform work that is essential to the delivery of core services in a municipality (such as social services, water and solid waste). A complete list of workers eligible for emergency childcare is available on the Lanark County website or can be obtained by contacting Lanark County Social Services.

Due to limited space, the County will commit to childcare spaces for eligible families on a first come, first served basis. Once families complete and submit the application via email or drop off at a County office, they will be contacted by Lanark County Children's Services staff regarding their eligibility and space availability.

The childcare centres will open Tuesday, January 12th, 2021. “County Council believes it is incredibly important to support our front line and health care workers during this unprecedented time. Opening designated childcare centres for essential service workers is one way we can support those who are making exceptional efforts to keep our County safe and functioning during this difficult time” stated Warden Christa Lowry (Mayor of Mississippi Mills). “Emergency licensed childcare will ensure the school aged children of essential workers in our community are safely cared for.”

For details on eligibility and application, visit the Lanark County website, email ss@lanarkcounty.ca or call 613-267-4200 or 1-888-952-6275 ext. 2304.