



## CP SCOOP – March 19th, 2021

### MUNICIPAL UPDATES

**Hydrant Flushing Program - Starting March 22nd, 2021** - The Public Works Department will be conducting an intensive hydrant flushing program throughout the Town over the next few weeks.

During flushing activities, it is possible the water may appear slightly discoloured within the general area that flushing is taking place. Should this occur, turn on your **cold** water tap and allow the water to run for 20-30 minutes.

Should you have additional concerns, please contact the Public Works Office, 613-257-2253.

### FEDERAL UPDATES

**[Health Canada Confirms that the Benefits of the AstraZeneca COVID-19 Vaccine Continue to Outweigh the Risks for Use in Canada](#)** - Health Canada confirms that the benefits of the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine in protecting Canadians from COVID-19 continue to outweigh the risks and encourages Canadians to get immunized with any of the COVID-19 vaccines that are authorized in Canada.

### PROVINCIAL UPDATES

**[Ontario Moving Eight Regions to New Levels in the COVID-19 Response Framework](#)** - **Province making adjustments to public health measures for indoor and outdoor dining** - On the advice of the Chief Medical Officer of Health, the Ontario government is moving eight (8) public health regions to new levels in the [COVID-19 Response Framework: Keeping Ontario Safe and Open](#). Decisions were made in consultation with the local medical officers of health and are based on the trends in public health indicators and local context and conditions.

Based on the latest data, the following eight (8) public health regions will be moving from their current level in the Framework to the following levels effective Monday, March 22nd, 2021 at 12:01 a.m.:

#### **Red-Control**

- Brant County Health Unit;
- Chatham-Kent Public Health; and
- **Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit.**

## Orange-Restrict

- Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health.

## Yellow-Protect

- Kingston, Frontenac and Lennox & Addington Public Health;
- North Bay Parry Sound District;
- Porcupine Health Unit; and
- Timiskaming Health Unit.

To support the province's economic recovery, the government is cautiously adjusting dining capacity limits at restaurants, bars and other food and drink establishments, for regions in the Grey-Lockdown, Red-Control and Orange-Restrict levels of the Framework, effective Saturday, March 20th, 2021 at 12:01 a.m.

For regions in the Orange-Restrict and Red-Control levels, capacity limits for indoor dining will be adjusted and based on a standard, scalable calculation that will allow for up to approximately 50 percent of the indoor dining area to be accessible to the public, subject to physical distancing rules. The total occupancy cannot exceed 50 patrons in Red-Control and 100 patrons in Orange-Restrict levels.

To ensure the continued safety of patrons and workers, public health and safety measures in indoor and outdoor settings would be strengthened in the Orange-Restrict, Red-Control and Grey-Lockdown levels in the Framework. These measures include, but are not limited to:

- Limiting tables for indoor dining to members of the same household with exemptions for patrons who live alone and caregivers;
- Limiting tables for outdoor dining in Grey-Lockdown to members of the same household with exemptions for patrons who live alone and caregivers; and
- A sign posted by the establishment in a location visible to the public that states the maximum capacity (number of patrons) they are permitted to operate under.

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### [Ontario's Booking System to Expand to Individuals Aged 75 and Older as Vaccine Rollout Accelerates](#) - More pharmacies and primary care settings to offer AstraZeneca to those 60+

- With over 50 percent of Ontario residents aged 80 and over having received at least one (1) dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, the Ontario government is expanding appointments through its online booking system to individuals aged 75 and over, effective Monday, March 22nd, 2021, ahead of schedule.

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### [Ontario Supports Colleges and Universities Impacted by COVID-19](#) - Funding provides immediate relief for institutions most affected by pandemic related costs

- The Ontario government is providing \$106.4 million to help publicly assisted colleges and universities address the financial impacts of COVID-19. This investment will support the sustainability of the postsecondary sector and ensure students continue to get the skills and education they need for the in-demand jobs of today and tomorrow.

## OTHER UPDATES

**Leeds, Grenville and Lanark Region Moving to Red-Control Level** - Today the government of Ontario announced that the Leeds, Grenville and Lanark (LGL) region will move from the Yellow-Protect level to the **Red-Control level** of the [Keeping Ontario Safe and Open COVID-19 Framework](#).

The move to the Red-Control level means that strengthened public health measures will come into effect in Leeds, Grenville and Lanark on Monday, March 22nd, at 12:01 a.m. The additional

measures include all restrictions currently imposed under the Yellow-Protect level and additional restrictions which include:

- Limits of five (5) people indoors and 25 people outdoors for all organized public events and social gatherings, where physical distancing can be maintained
- Limits for fitness facilities, where physical distancing can be maintained, of 10 people in indoor areas with weights and exercise machines; 10 people in all indoor classes, or 25 people in outdoor classes
- Bars and restaurants must close by 10:00 p.m., with liquor sold or served only between 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.
- 10-person indoor capacity limit for restaurants and bars, with no more than four (4) seated together
- Team sports must not be practiced or played except for training (no games or scrimmage); no contact permitted for team or individual sports
- Capacity limits of 75 percent for supermarkets and other stores that primarily sell groceries, convenience stores, pharmacies and 50 percent for all other retail, including, but not limited to discount and big-box retailers, liquor stores, hardware stores and garden centres
- No personal care services that require the removal of face coverings
- Many businesses/organizations/facilities must actively screen patrons in accordance with [instructions issued by the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health](#)
- Full details of the limitations and restrictions for the Red-Control Level can be found on the Health Unit's website: <https://healthunit.org/health-information/covid-19/business-re-opening/framework/>.

In addition to the move to Red-Control, a [Section 22 Order](#) remains in effect for Perth and Smiths Falls. The Section 22 Order for Carleton Place, Beckwith, and Mississippi Mills is rescinded effective today. These Section 22 Orders are intended to reduce opportunities for people to gather and have close, unprotected contact with others outside their household in public and private facilities.

As of Saturday, March 20th, 2021 at 12:01 a.m., adjustments are being made to dining capacity limits at restaurants, bars and other food and drink establishments, for regions in the Grey-Lockdown, Red-Control and Orange-Restrict levels of the Framework. In LGL, it is a max of 50 or 50 percent of capacity.

“Moving from Yellow-Protect to Red-Control is an alert for us to ensure we are adhering to all public health precautions - be COVID-SMART at home and at work,” says Dr. Paula Stewart, Medical Officer of Health for the Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit. “The increase in new infections over the past two to three weeks shows how quickly COVID-19 can spread. Each of us has a part to play to decrease the spread of the COVID-19 virus in our communities.”

Staying home and apart as much as we can is the most important thing we can do. Being safe and protecting yourself means you are protecting your family, friends and co-workers. Trips outside of the home should only be for essential reasons, and families should not visit any other household or allow visitors in their homes.

- S - [Self-isolate](#) if you have [symptoms of COVID-19](#) consider [getting tested](#)
- M - [Mask/face covering](#) on properly when in enclosed public spaces and when physical distancing is a challenge outdoors.
- A - Avoid touching your face.
- R - Remain 2 metres/6 feet apart from people not part of your household – avoid play dates, and other close social contact. Social gatherings with anyone you don't live with are strongly discouraged.

- T - 20 seconds for regular [hand hygiene](#). Cover your coughs and sneezes.

The [Keeping Ontario Safe and Open COVID-19 Framework](#) categorizes public health unit regions into five levels: Green-Prevent, Yellow-Protect, Orange-Restrict, Red-Control, and Grey-Lockdown being a measure of last and urgent resort.

For more information about COVID-19, visit: <https://healthunit.org/health-information/covid-19/business-re-opening/framework/> or call 1-800-660-5853.

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**Local Hospitals Feel Ripple Effect of COVID Community Spread** - The recent increase in the number of COVID-19 cases in local communities has impacted patient care at Almonte General Hospital (AGH) and Carleton Place & District Memorial Hospital (CPDMH).

“There has been a lot of focus on ICU and other hospital beds filling up with patients when COVID strikes a community, but there is another very serious impact on the way we care for patients.” explains Mary Wilson Trider, President and CEO. “If a family member is required to isolate due to possible exposure, everyone in that household must also isolate. That can include hospital staff. Over the past several weeks we have experienced staffing shortages due to isolation requirements.”

AGH and CPDMH staff have stepped up to make sure the shifts are covered, are working extra hours and impacting their own personal lives. There are many examples of staff members who put patients first including an Emergency Department Nurse who worked the day shift, went home to sleep for a few hours, and returned to work the night shift as some other nurses were in quarantine. A Diagnostic Imaging (DI) staff member worked seven (7) days in a row when another staff member was unable to come to work due to COVID-19. The same DI Technologist also covered after-hours on-call during this period.

To ensure patient safety, these situations are being monitored carefully. If there is not enough staff available, or they have worked too many shifts, patient services may be reduced.

“Our teams have been on the front line of the pandemic for more than a year. Workload pressure, caused by a large number of absences, adds to the stress they have been experiencing,” adds Jason Hann, Vice President, Clinical Care. “We ask everyone to follow the Health Unit’s guidelines to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in our communities. We’re all in this together.”