



**CP SCOOP – March 3rd, 2021**

## **MUNICIPAL UPDATES**

**A Message from Mayor Doug Black** - With the recent release of information from the Health Unit regarding the outbreak in our area, as well as a positive case of a variant of concern in our region, I can understand why anxiety levels in the general community are high right now.

We have been relatively fortunate in our area until recently with case numbers being low in comparison to other regions and this sense of security can contribute to a rise in numbers when people start letting their guard down.

I know that fatigue is setting in regarding following public health measures and that many of us miss social interactions with friends and family. However, I cannot stress enough that it is critical that residents continue to follow public health measures as outlined by the Health Unit.

Receiving a positive diagnosis is a significantly stressful situation. Respecting privacy and refraining from gossiping about suspected cases is of the utmost importance during this difficult time. Not only is it demonstrating compassion towards those who are navigating their way through a stressful and scary situation, but it limits the spread of misinformation and unnecessary fear in the community.

We have gotten through this pandemic so far by sticking together as a community and that is how we will get through this stage as well. Please stay vigilant. Offer support when you can. Stay home. Wear a mask if you need to go out. Limit close contact to your own household. Stay 6 feet away from others in public areas. Wash your hands. The guidelines are simple, but they only work if we all do our part.

Please know that it's ok to not feel ok. If you or someone you know would benefit from speaking with someone, Lanark County Mental Health has a Pandemic Health Line that you can call at 1-833-283-9979. They are available to offer support without shame or judgement.

Rest assured we will continue to work closely with the Health Unit and advise of any updates, including the availability and location for our pending vaccinations. In the interim, let's all do our best and be kind to one another.

## **FEDERAL UPDATES**

**[Government Announces Wage and Rent Subsidy Amounts to Remain Unchanged Through to June](#)** - The Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy, the Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy and Lockdown Support have helped protect millions of Canadian jobs and supported businesses of every size across Canada through the COVID-19 pandemic. Today, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of

Finance, the Honourable Chrystia Freeland, announced that the government intends to extend the current rate structures for these subsidies from March 14th to June 5th, 2021. Specifically:

- the maximum wage subsidy rate for active employees would remain at 75 percent;
- the maximum rent subsidy rate would remain at 65 percent; and
- Lockdown Support would remain at 25 percent and continue to be provided in addition to the rent subsidy, providing eligible hard-hit businesses with rent support of up to 90 percent.

## **PROVINCIAL UPDATES**

**Ontario Hires 100 Additional Health and Safety Inspectors** - New employees will support business inspection blitz during COVID-19 - The Ontario government has hired over 100 new occupational health and safety inspectors to support business inspection campaigns, and help ensure employees, businesses and the public are protected. The new inspectors have begun a condensed training program and will begin making field visits, with a mentor, within five (5) weeks of their start date. They are scheduled to be fully trained and deployed by July 1st, 2021.

## **OTHER UPDATES**

**Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit - Health Unit warns of increase in COVID-19 in east Lanark County** - The Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit has detected a significant increase with 20 people infected with COVID-19 in the past four (4) days in and around **Pakenham, Almonte and Carleton Place**. Public health has contacted all the newly infected people and their close contacts.

The COVID-19 infections started with exposure to the COVID-19 virus in a social gathering. It has now spread into businesses, recreational sports teams, families and childcare - both within and outside of our region.

While there is active spread in the community, community members in this area are encouraged to limit their contact with others outside the household, monitor for symptoms and get tested if any hint of possible COVID-19 symptoms develop including headache, sore throat, congestion, fatigue, fever, diarrhea and loss of taste or smell. If you are experiencing any respiratory symptoms (including fever), complete the online [self-assessment](#) and testing is available at the Almonte [Assessment Centre](#).

Patrons who attended The Thirsty Moose Pub & Eatery in Carleton Place on the following dates may have been exposed to COVID-19 between the hours of 4:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m.:

- Sunday, February 21st,
- Tuesday, February 23rd,
- Thursday, February 25<sup>th</sup>, and
- Friday, February 26<sup>th</sup>.

If you were at the premises during those times and dates, we advise you to:

- **Self-monitor for symptoms.**
- **If you are experiencing or develop symptoms even mild ones, self-isolate, and seek testing at an Assessment Centre.**
- Please ensure you follow all public health measures (see below).

A pop-up COVID-19 testing site is being held on Friday, March 5th, 11:00 a.m. at the Carleton Place Arena (75 Neelin Street) for ANY patrons who attended The Thirsty Moose Pub & Eatery in Carleton Place on the following dates noted above.

Please bring your OHIP card and Driver's Licence, wear a mask, and follow signage on-site. More info about COVID-19 testing: <https://bit.ly/2ZpjKBR>.

Because this virus spreads so easily, we all need to do our part to slow and reduce the spread. This means practicing all public health measures:

- Stay home as much as possible and limit close contact (no masks and closer than 2m) to your own household (the people you live with).
- Stay local and avoid travel outside the region.
- Practice physical distancing – stay 2 meters (6 feet) away from people in public areas.
- Wear a face covering: Minimum of 2 layers of material; 3 will provide further protection when you cannot stay 6 feet away from people out in public – and in indoor public spaces as required.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water or use hand sanitizer after being in touch with others or handling anything from outside your home.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Cover your cough and sneeze with a tissue or into your arm, not your hands.
- Do not share personal items that come into contact with saliva such as toothbrushes, eating utensils, drinks, water bottles, and towels.
- If you are experiencing any respiratory symptoms (including fever) – please [self-isolate](#) immediately and complete the online self-assessment.

Please respect limits for certain organized public events and social gatherings such as functions, parties, dinners, gatherings, barbecues or wedding receptions held in private residences, backyards, or parks, where physical distancing can be maintained:

- 10 people indoors
- 25 people outdoors

For more information about COVID-19, visit <http://www.healthunit.org/coronavirus> or call 1-800-660-5853, extension 2499. You can also follow us on Facebook and Twitter @LGLHealthunit.

---

**Leeds, Grenville and Lanark (LGL) District Health Unit - New Variant of COVID-19 found in LGL Region** - The Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit was notified by Public Health Ontario that a resident of the area has been identified to have screened positive for a variant of concern (VOC). This is the first person in the community to have a COVID-19 variant of concern. Effective February 3rd, 2021, every new COVID-19 positive specimen has been screened for known VOCs in Ontario. Those specimens that screen positive go on for further testing to confirm which mutation lineage has been found.

“The news of a screened positive variant of concern locally reinforces how important it is to continue following public health guidance very carefully.” said Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Paula Stewart. “It is important that we remember that we are all in this together. If our community is safe our schools will be safe. We must all continue to work together, stay vigilant, and follow the public health measures to keep COVID-19 from spreading in LGL.”

**All public health measures are key to preventing the spread of COVID-19 and variants:**

- Stay home as much as possible and limit close contact (no masks and closer than 2m) to your own household (the people you live with).
- Stay local and avoid travel outside the region.
- Wear a face covering: Minimum of 2 layers of material; 3 will provide further protection.
- Stay 2 metres apart from others, especially in large stores like grocery stores.
- Wash your hands Twenty (20) seconds for regular [hand hygiene](#) or use hand sanitizer often.
- Cover your coughs and sneezes into a tissue or your arm.
- Do not touch your eyes, nose or mouth.
- Work from home, if possible.
- Get tested if you have symptoms of COVID-19: See the list of symptoms on the [assessment tool](#).

While research suggests that VOCs are more transmissible and may have the potential for more severe illness, so far, the evidence suggests that the Health Canada-approved vaccines will still be effective against them.