

Corporation of the Town of Carleton Place

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COVID-19 UPDATE #131

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MUNICIPAL UPDATES

Special Committee of the Whole Meeting – There was a Special Committee of the Whole Meeting last night related to the Development Charges Background Study. The first part of the meeting consisted of a closed session where Council received an educational session on the Study. The meeting then moved into open session where there was a [presentation](#) from Andrew Grunda, a Consultant from Watson & Associates Economists Ltd on the preliminary findings of the Study.

PROVINCIAL UPDATES

[Ontario Taking Steps to Improve Service Delivery at Provincial Agencies](#) - The Ontario government is reviewing how provincial agencies deliver services with a focus on improving the customer experience, adopting service innovation, offering more services virtually and online, and eliminating redundancies. The evaluation will build on the advancements in digital service delivery made during the pandemic.

OTHER UPDATES

Health Unit Detects Spike in Overdoses in Leeds, Grenville and Lanark (LGL) in the Past Week

The Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit, through the overdose early warning and surveillance system, has detected a spike in overdoses across LGL over the past week. The Health Unit, along with community partners, warn that the supply of substances in the area



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continues to be toxic and that many substances (such as cocaine and crystal meth) continue to be contaminated with opioids including fentanyl. The Health Unit encourages people who use substances to take extreme caution and to engage with harm reduction services for single-use equipment, naloxone and further access to services and referrals.

In an effort to reduce the number of overdoses in our community, the Health Unit encourages the following safer use practices:

- Carry a naloxone kit
- Call 9-1-1 in the event of an overdose
- Avoid mixing substances
- Use a small test dose first
- Do not use alone

Residents are reminded that an overdose is a medical emergency. Anyone who suspects or witnesses an overdose should call 9-1-1. **The Good Samaritan Drug Overdose Act provides some legal protection against simple drug possession charges for anyone who experiences, witnesses or responds to an overdose and calls 9-1-1.** Harm reduction supplies, including naloxone kits, will continue to be offered throughout Leeds, Grenville and Lanark during the COVID-19 pandemic. Please visit the [Health Unit website](#) for more information.

Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit – Update on Current COVID-19

Situation Locally – There has been a low number of people living in Leeds, Grenville and Lanark who have become infected with COVID-19 for June, July and August, and none in the past 5 weeks. This is a direct result of people, businesses and services following the public health precautions. It is important not to be complacent. People are still being infected in Ottawa and other parts of Ontario and Canada where we may visit. Also, the virus may still be in our community, either with individuals who are asymptomatic, or with individuals who have very mild symptoms and have decided not to go for testing. We are strongly encouraging anyone with one of the [many possible COVID-19 symptoms](#) to go for testing at one of the Assessment Centres in Brockville, Smiths Falls or Almonte. Preventing COVID-19 infection in the broader community is key to keeping schools safer. It is very important for everyone to continue to be COVID SMART:



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S – [Self-isolate](#) if you have [symptoms of COVID-19](#). [Consider getting tested](#).

M – Wear a [mask/cloth face covering](#) 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 you do not live with and people not in your [social circle](#).

T – Take time for [regular hand hygiene](#) and respiratory etiquette.

Face Covering Mask Instruction – Operators and the community have responded very well to the Medical Officer of Health Instruction on Face Coverings/Mask Use in enclosed public spaces. Initially we had many people call about the exemptions and whether they needed a doctors/or an exemption card. The answer was no, and our impression is that people who have a medical reason to not wear a face covering/mask are visiting stores at non-peak times or using curb pick up or delivery to protect others. Later on, we received complaints from people that a business wasn't complying with the Instruction. Each one was contacted and the Instruction clarified. The community is now familiar with the required face covering/mask Instruction, and this will help as students have to wear face covering/masks in school from grade 4 and up (also recommend for younger students.)

Influenza Immunization- We are working with our partners on influenza immunization plans for the fall. The vaccine usually arrives in October. Influenza vaccine provides good protection against infection, particularly important for anyone with a chronic illness.

School Opening - As the new school year approaches, parents will need to balance various options and make a decision about schooling that makes sense for each family. The Health Unit has collaborated with the Eastern Health Unit to [send a letter to all parents](#) to help them make this decision. The letter includes a link to the [recent European review](#) that suggests the risk of transmission of the virus is low in school settings that have precautions in place. The report also has a link to the Hospital for Sick Kids in Toronto that outlines the lower risk of serious COVID-19 infection among children, and their [recommendations for safer opening of schools](#) that the province referenced in their release of the Ministry of Education Guidelines for Schools.

Stage 3 Openings – Work continues with our many services and businesses to adapt to the provincial Stage 3 Guidelines. We respond to about 50 calls each day for assistance. Our municipalities have been great partners as we navigate these new waters together.



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OPP Warns of Road Test Scam

Attention young drivers! Looking to book your driver's road test online? Make sure you go to the Ministry of Transportation (MTO) website to get the proper link. A resident of Lanark County got scammed by "bookyourroadtest.com" which is NOT the legitimate site for the MTO. The \$140 the victim is out may seem small but if people continue to get lured in that amount quickly adds up for the bad guy. Know where you are searching and booking online.

