



# MEDIA RELEASE

March 18, 2020

## Centre Hastings COVID-19 Communications Update

**Madoc, ON** – The Municipality of Centre Hastings continues to monitor the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic as issued by the World Health Organization (WHO) and respond to the State of Emergency issued by the Province of Ontario.

The Municipality of Centre Hastings are working to put into effect community-based measures that will protect the general population and do our part to slow the spread of this virus. We have an opportunity to support each other during this difficult time.

The goal at the moment is to contain the virus and to do that **WE NEED YOUR HELP**. As of 8:30am on Thursday March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020 the **Municipal Office will be closed to the public** until further notice. Municipal staff are available by calling the office at (613) 473-4030 during office hours. In-person business will only be conducted by appointment, and appointments will be strictly limited. Staff will continue to respond to calls, emails and to carry on the business of the Municipality to the best of their ability.

All meetings of Council and Committees are cancelled until further notice, and all other meetings scheduled at the Municipal Office have been cancelled or will occur by phone. All municipal buildings are closed. This includes Arts Centre Hastings, Moira Hall, Huntingdon Veterans Community Centre, Madoc Arena, Madoc Public library and The Hub.

We ask residents to use alternative means of payment and communication with municipal staff and officials until further notice. Contact information can be located at <https://centrehastings.com/municipal/staff-directory/>. Comprehensive information on payment options for taxes and utilities can also be viewed at <https://centrehastings.com/municipal/finance-and-taxes/>.

Building and Planning department plans, applications and payment may be dropped off at the office by appointment only. Electronically is preferred, where possible. Any documents dropped off will not be handled for 5 days. Building Inspections within occupied areas are suspended, other inspections will be carried out as time permits and maintaining strict social distancing.

We encourage staff to stay calm and continue with infection control practices, such as, frequent hand washing, coughing into sleeve – not hands, and remaining at home if feeling unwell. Any member of staff who has recently travelled is encouraged to self-isolate for 14 days and contact public health if symptoms of COVID-19 develop. Cleaning supplies are available to staff for cleaning their personal workspace. More updates will be available as the situation unfolds.



The Municipality of Centre Hastings encourages social distancing measures as a way to minimize COVID-19 transmission in the community. This means minimizing close contact with others during the peak of this outbreak. Hastings Prince Edward Public Health have provided useful information on social distancing at: <https://hpepublichealth.ca/social-distancing/>

Quinte Health Care recommend that if you have any of the following symptoms do not attend your doctor's office or the hospital's Emergency Department. Instead please contact **Telehealth Ontario** at **1-866-797-0000** or the Health Unit at **613-966-5500** if you think you may be experiencing symptoms of the 2019 novel coronavirus.

Symptoms could include:

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of Breath
- Flu Like Symptoms

If you believe you may have been in contact with an infected person or have travelled outside of the county in the last 14 days, you are being asked to self-quarantine.

We strongly encourage everyone to take the following precautions to protect themselves:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water, or use hand sanitizer
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth unless you have just washed your hands
- Cover your cough and sneeze with a tissue or into your arm, not your hand. Also, make sure to wash your hands afterward
- Avoid visiting people in hospitals or long-term care centres
- **PLEASE DO NOT GO TO THE HOSPITAL FOR MILD ILLNESSES.**
- Do not call 911 unless it is an emergency.

The health and safety of the community is our priority and we advise you to be cognisant of the sources of information you get at this time and encourage you to check the following sources daily for correct updates as they become available:

1. [www.centrehastings.com](http://www.centrehastings.com)
2. [Facebook.com/centrehastings](https://www.facebook.com/centrehastings)
3. <https://www.ontario.ca/page/2019-novel-coronavirus>
4. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/coronavirus-disease-covid-19.html>
5. <https://hpepublichealth.ca/>

We thank you for your patience and understanding and would like you to be reassured that we will continue to work diligently to keep our staff and the public safe and healthy.

Thank you,  
Mayor Tom Deline