

Media Release
March 31, 2020

Update on COVID-19 Response

Interest and penalties waived for property tax accounts, all recreational amenities closed

Essex- In light of the rapidly evolving response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Town of Essex has taken additional action to prevent the spread of the virus and reduce its impact on the community.

To ease the financial pressure caused by COVID-19, the Town will waive late payment charges (including penalties and interest) and non-sufficient fund charges on all property tax accounts through the period ending June 30, 2020. Please note, all pre-authorized payment withdrawals will continue to be taken on the scheduled dates unless otherwise cancelled by the property owner.

"We understand that our residents are feeling financial pressure and the stress of uncertainty," said Mayor Larry Snively. "Council and I will continue to monitor these impacts and make decisions to help ease the burden on our community members."

All outdoor recreation amenities are closed to the public by order of the province. This order affects all park amenities such as off-leash dog parks, pavilions, sports fields and courts, skate parks, beaches, and community gardens. Colchester Harbour and boat ramp are also closed. Trails and green spaces remain open for walk-through access.

The Town's Community Services department is currently working to close and cordon off all recreational amenities covered by the provincial order.

While the Town has closed all facilities to non-essential visitors, a number of online service can be found at www.essex.ca/OnlineServices. Customer service representatives and departmental staff are also available by phone at 519-776-7336 during regular business hours.

Following the guidance of local and provincial health authorities, the Town is asking residents to limit all non-essential trips and travel, avoid gatherings of five or more, and maintain thorough environmental and personal cleaning practices.

Town administration and Council will continue to monitor the situation with information from the Windsor Essex County Health Unit, as well as federal and provincial health officials. The Town is also in regular communication with neighbouring municipalities and the County of Essex to share information on impacts to the region. Members of the Town's senior management team continue to meet daily to identify and address issues as they arise.

For guidance on what individuals can do to reduce their risk of contracting the virus, or what to do if they display symptoms, please visit the [Ontario Ministry of Health's COVID-19 resource page](#). For local updates, please visit [Windsor Essex County Health Unit's Novel Coronavirus page](#).

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