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## **COVID-19 Response: Mayor's Message Support local with new Open for Business Map**

Residents in the Town of Essex have a handy new tool to find open local businesses and service providers during the COVID-19 pandemic. The new Open for Business Map can be accessed online at <a href="Essex.ca/BusinessMap">Essex.ca/BusinessMap</a>.

"Many of our local businesses have stepped up to continue to provide goods and services with modified operations to ensure the safety of our citizens and community," Mayor Larry Snively said. "This map provides a summary of those changes so consumers can know what to expect."

The businesses and service providers on the map are broken down into the following categories: Grocery, Restaurant, Healthcare, Pharmacy, Social Services, Food Bank, Professional Services and Retail. The map also notes the changes each has undertaken during the COVID-19 pandemic. Some businesses in the community, for example, have introduced curb-side pickup to reduce person-to-person contact. Others have added additional in-store shopping hours for senior citizens and frontline medical workers. Users can click on each business or service providers' icon to view operational changes, as well as contact and location information.

If you don't see your business on the map, please fill out the <u>business map online form</u> online to be added within 1-2 business days. Businesses who would like to modify the contents of their post can contact Nelson Silveira, Economic Development Officer, at nsilveira@essex.ca

"This crisis has helped many realize how essential small businesses and their employees are to our community," Snively added. "They continue to go above and beyond to serve the Town of Essex, and we thank them for that."

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